

Second Largest Surplus in Alberta's History

THE U.F.A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF

THE UNITED FARMERS of ALBERTA

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CALGARY, ALBERTA, FEBRUARY 25, 1926

No. 5

Provincial Surplus of \$188,019 in 1925 Announced by Premier Brownlee in Legislative Assembly

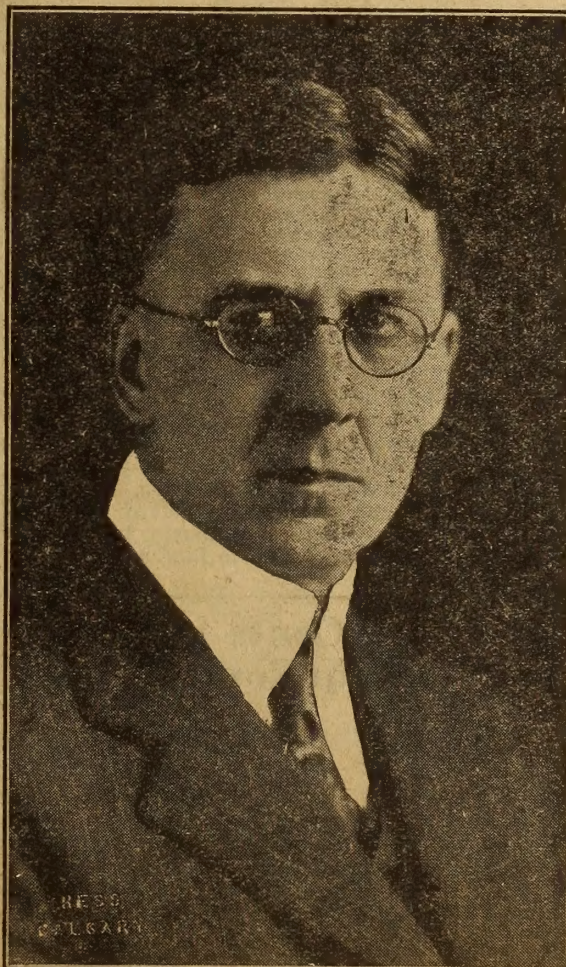
Premier Surveys Wide Field of Provincial Affairs in First Speech as Leader of Government—Challenge to Liberals to Defend in Assembly Statements Made by Party in Country Not Taken Up

EDMONTON, Feb. 16.—Amid almost general cheers, Premier Brownlee made the welcome revelation in the Legislature today of a surplus for 1925 of \$188,019, the second largest surplus in the history of the Province. On the previous day C. R. Mitchell, the Liberal leader and former Provincial Treasurer, had expressed his confident opinion that the Government would be faced with another deficit, and he received the announcement with visible surprise. There were no cheers from the Liberal side of the Assembly. Premier Brownlee also announced that as compared with a deficit of \$110,000 in 1924, there would be a deficit in the Telephone Department for 1925 of \$8,000.

While there has been an improvement in revenues, it would have been impossible for the Government to have obtained a surplus, or to have avoided a large deficit, had not economies in controllable expenditure totalling \$1,070,000 been carried out under the U. F. A. administration.

In a speech of over two hours' duration, the first since he became the head of the Government, the Premier made a comprehensive survey of Provincial affairs. It was the most sustained effort and probably the best speech which Mr. Brownlee has delivered in the Assembly, and it was followed intently by large crowds in the public and members' galleries. The Premier challenged Mr. Mitchell and C. S. Pingle, the newly elected member for Medicine Hat, to defend on the floor of the Assembly the opposition policy in the Medicine Hat by-election, which had been fought largely on the issue that the Government had ignored the problem of the south-eastern part of the Province, and he subjected these members to a grilling cross-examination upon this matter. When he presented the issue, as defined by the Medicine Hat News, the Liberal organ in the constituency,

neither Mr. Mitchell nor Mr. Pingle was willing to come to the defence of the Liberal policy as set forth in successive issues by that newspaper. Challenged to say whether they disapproved of the present Government's policy in regard to seed grain relief, neither Mr. Mitchell nor Mr. Pingle would go on record in disapproval.



PREMIER BROWNLEE

Discussing the imminent return to the Province of the Natural Resources, Premier Brownlee suggested that the Northern Railways might be taken care of by setting aside certain resources to build up a fund in the hands of the Government to provide for the \$35,000,000 debt. He announced the Government's decision to regulate and develop markets for coal and oil products. He described the steps which the Government has taken to fight discriminatory freight rates in the West. He announced a change in school assessment ordinances, by which additional financial assistance may be given to weaker school districts, and stated that this plan would replace the former proposal to levy an educational tax of three mills in the rural areas. He declared himself in favor of a sound colonization policy, but protested against any return to the old haphazard system, or to the general opening of the gates without consultation with the Provinces.

Dealing with mortgage legislation, Mr. Brownlee said that the companies had little to complain of today, and that economic conditions rather than legislation had been responsible for the difficulties of the past few years.

The Premier concluded with an eloquent appeal for a closer understanding and closer co-operation between urban and rural citizens, and urged the closest collaboration between all classes, instancing the valuable co-operation which the Government had already received

(Continued on page 14)

Increase of More Than One Hundred Per Cent Membership in Dues for Month of February

Great Increase in Activity Indicated by Receipts at General Office for Current Month—Some Locals Have Doubled or Trebled 1925 Membership Already
—Nineteen New and Reorganized Locals

Although there are still some days to run before the end of the month, membership dues received during February are already more than double the dues sent in to Central Office during the corresponding month of 1925. From all parts of the Province comes news of increased and increasing activity. In numerous cases reported, Locals during January and February have doubled and in a few cases trebled the figures for the twelve months of 1925.

JOINING U. F. A. FOR FIRST TIME

One notable feature of the present development is the number of new Locals which are being reported, many of them with substantial initial membership. Nineteen Locals have been formed or reorganized since the beginning of the year, and many of the members of these Locals are associating themselves with the U. F. A. for the first time. In almost all sections of the Province, Locals in large numbers are carrying on Local membership drives, or are making arrangements for drives to be commenced at an early date.

RIDGEWOOD ORGANIZED

Ridgewood U. F. W. A. Local was organized at a meeting of the women of Pine Hill and Ridgewood districts, with Mrs. J. Creelman and Miss M. J. Morrison as officers.

BLACKFOOT REORGANIZED

Blackfoot Local was reorganized in January with a paid-up membership of ten. Wilfred O. Taylor is the secretary.

NEW LOCAL NEAR LAMONT

Sheptycki Local, in the Lamont district, was organized recently, with 27 paid-up members. Nick Protzek is secretary.

GLENGILE LOCAL FORMED

Glengile Local, near Lake Thelma, has been reorganized with James Grant and Harry Shearer as officers. This Local has decided to raise the membership fees of women members by means of entertainments.

NEW LOCAL NEAR LETHBRIDGE

White Local was organized recently in the Lethbridge district, with Wm. Andrews and J. T. Hadlington as officers.

HILLCREST LOCAL ORGANIZED

Hillcrest Local, in the Olds district was organized by Vice-President Scholefield recently. Meetings will be held in the Hillcrest Community Hall.

NEW LOCAL IN VULCAN DISTRICT

Harry Moss, organizer of the Red Cross Local, was elected its first president, with A. J. Fulton as secretary. This Local is in the Vulcan district, and has eleven paid-up members.

CONDOR LOCAL REORGANIZED

J. McLaughlin, F. Barton, and W. A. Clement were elected officers of the reorganized Condor Local, at a well attended meeting. H. Meeres, in opening the meeting, said that those who expected the organization to solve all their problems immediately would be well advised not to join, but that the idea should be to get behind the association and help in the solution of those problems. Three

of those present desired that the new Local should be kept out of politics, but the majority felt that a Local not affiliated with the central body would be ineffective.

SEXTON CREEK REORGANIZED

Sixteen members joined the reorganized Sexton Creek Local, in the Coutts district. Thos. Colliton and R. H. Mellafont were chosen officers.

NEW LOCAL NEAR CAIRNS

Twin Lake Local, recently organized near Cairns, elected as officers N. A. Johnson and J. J. Roderick.

PREPARE FOR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

A special convention of the Wetaskiwin U. F. A. Federal Constituency Association will be held in the U. F. A. Hall, Wetaskiwin, on March 11th, with the object chiefly of preparing for a membership drive to be held later in the spring.

COL. AND MRS. ROBINSON ILL

Members will regret to learn that Col. Robinson of Munson is in hospital at Drumheller, seriously ill, and that Mrs. Robinson also has found it necessary to undergo an operation. Col. Robinson was compelled to leave the Annual Convention in January before the adjournment, owing to illness.

FROM 16 to 63
Dues for 63 members were paid recently by G. F. Lee, secretary of Midnapore Local. This is an increase of 47 over last year, and the largest membership in the history of the Local.

CELEBRATE ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

Rochfort Bridge joint Local invited the Hathersage and Padstow Locals to join them in their celebration of St. Valentine's Day, writes the secretary, R. H. Hancox. The proceedings began with a musical program, and by the courtesy of the teachers two items from the children's Christmas program were included, a butterfly dance and an animal band, which were enthusiastically received. Refreshments were followed by cards and dancing.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM VANCOUVER

A letter from the Canadian Labor Party, Vancouver Council, addressed to the officers and members of the United Farmers of Alberta, sends "congratulations on the progressive resolutions passed by the Annual Convention of the U. F. A."

100% INCREASE
Mayview Local has a paid-up membership of 28 so far in 1926—an increase of 100% over last year.

ADDRESS HUXLEY TO GRAINGER ASSOCIATION

Vice-President Scholefield and A. B. Claypool, M.L.A., were the principal speakers at the meeting of the Huxley to Grainger District Association on February 18th. Owing to cold weather and bad roads the attendance was not as good as usual, but the discussion was animated and indicated a keen U. F. A. spirit.

100 PER CENT. INCREASE AT LORRAINE

Lorraine Local is one of those showing an increase of 100 per cent. over last year's membership. The 1926 membership so far, writes the secretary, J. Haynes, is 31.

IOLA LOCAL DOUBLED

An increase of over 100 per cent. is reported by the secretary of Iola Local, B. R. Ramsey, over 1925 membership. At an enthusiastic meeting of this Local, addressed by E. R. Rasmuson and Carl Axelsson, it was decided to begin an active campaign to still further increase the Local's membership.

Four Cents for Turkeys; Two Cents for Light Poultry; Final Pool Payments

CHEQUES ARE NOW BEING MAILED OUT FROM POOL HEAD OFFICE

The gratifying figure of 4 cents a pound is being paid to members of the Alberta Poultry Pool as the final payment on turkeys sold through the Pool, and a payment of 2 cents a pound on light poultry.

This announcement was made by Mrs. F. E. Wyman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Poultry Pool, on February 24th. Cheques in final payment for turkeys and other poultry are now being mailed from the Head Office of the Pool in Calgary. The Pool period on which the above payments are made closed December 31st, 1925.

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EDITORIAL

SEND IN DELIVERY CHECKING COUPONS

In our issue of February 1st, members of the Alberta Wheat Pool were requested to send in their Delivery Checking Coupons to the Pool Head Office, 226 Lougheed Building, in order that these coupons might be checked against deliveries in preparation for an Interim Payment. Large numbers of these coupons have not as yet been sent in. It is of very great importance that they should be delivered, and we would therefore urge all members who have not already done so, to forward their coupons without delay, and so expedite arrangements at the Pool Head Office.

* * *

A NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Coming into power at the end of a period of over-expansion, during which, in common with many other public bodies, the Government of the day added to the liabilities of the taxpayer in somewhat reckless fashion, the U. F. A. administration has been grappling since 1921 with a dual problem.

On the one hand, it became evident when the new Government took office that only by the practice of the most rigid economy, and by increasing the efficiency of the public service at every point, could a most serious financial condition be avoided.

On the other hand, it was highly desirable that the great public services should not be crippled by sudden and drastic curtailment of expenditure, where such curtailment would merely pass the burden from the Province to other authorities and inflict serious hardship upon the citizens.

The progressive improvement which has taken place in the public service during the past four and a half years is generally recognized. Efficiency has been increased and at the same time expenditure has been reduced. The announcement by Premier Brownlee last week, that the Province has now "turned the corner" financially, demonstrates the soundness of the Government's policy. Alberta in 1925 had the second largest surplus in the history of the Province. This surplus was due in part to increasing revenue, but, as Perren Baker stated in the debate last week, were it not for the fact that the Government has reduced the controllable expenditure of the Province by more than one million dollars per annum, Alberta would have piled up during 1925, not the very substantial surplus indicated by Mr. Brownlee, but a much larger deficit.

* * *

THE HERALD EMBARRASSED

When a deficit in the Provincial finances for 1924 was announced a year ago, the Calgary Herald blazoned forth the fact under a seven column heading on its front page, and afterwards devoted many columns to alarmist editorial discussion of Alberta's finances. When it was announced last

week that the Province in 1925 had the second largest surplus in its history, there was not even an intimation of the news in the heading of the Legislative report. Editorially, the news that Alberta has "turned the corner" financially was ignored. Instead, there appeared, two days later, the stock editorial on the "business inefficiency" of the U. F. A. Government. Apparently, the surplus is as embarrassing to the Herald as it is to Mr. McGillivray.

* * *

AN APPRAISAL OF THE U.F.A. GOVERNMENT RECORD

The Government's four years' record in the field of administration is appraised by the Alberta Labor News in the following editorial:

A GOOD RECORD

The accomplishments of the U. F. A. Government in Alberta have been remarkable in the matter of administration. Left at the end of 1921 with a deficit of over two million dollars created by the old Government, and saddled with additional annual interest charges of \$860,000 to take care of the sixteen million dollar debt created by the old regime in 1921, the U.F.A. administration has come out at the end of four years with the second largest surplus in the history of the Province. An annual reduction of controllable expenditure amounting to \$1,079,000 had made this possible.

The most remarkable feature of the Government's work is the fact that economies have been effected without impairing the services that were being received by the people of the Province before the present administration assumed office. As a matter of fact the efficiency of most of the services has been notably increased. That is particularly true with respect to the administration of Labor legislation. The Factories Act of the Province was not properly enforced under the old Government and its minimum wage provisions were a joke. Not only is the Factories Act strictly enforced now, through the appointment of the right kind of a chief inspector, but the operation of the Minimum Wage Act which was passed by the Government has resulted in increased wages to women workers of the Province amounting to about \$400,000 since the act came into force. As a matter of fact the administration of all Labor legislation has been tremendously improved under the present regime.

In other departments of Government the same improvement is largely true. For example, the road policy of the Government has been changed from a haphazard, hit-or-miss policy to one of efficiency and permanent development which has aroused the admiration of even the political opponents of the Government.

* * *

NO ROSE WITHOUT ITS THORN

There is no rose without its thorn. For instance, the leader of the Conservative party in this Province, a gentleman totally without experience in Governmental affairs, has been assiduously seeking to ingratiate himself with the electorate by promising to "balance the budget." He has proposed to balance the budget by attacking some important services which the Government now renders to the citizens of Alberta, though the Conservative leader regards these services as "fads".

And now the U. F. A. Government has not only balanced the budget, but it has done so without impairing the efficiency of the services; it has done so while greatly increasing the efficiency of some of the most important of them. The Conservative leader thus finds himself under the disagreeable necessity of totally recasting his public addresses.

* * *

The lack of enthusiasm on the Liberal benches when Premier Brownlee presented the figures of the budget surplus, showing that Alberta has "turned the corner" financially, was perhaps understandable. A few hours previously Mr. Mitchell, who as the former Provincial Treasurer is the financial expert of the Liberals, made the confident prediction that Alberta would show a deficit for 1925. To have one's prophesy discredited is naturally disconcerting.

Debate on Address Features First Week in Alberta Legislative Assembly --- Liberals Condemn Principles of the U.F.A. Labor Group Offers Co-operation

Opposition Leader Much Milder in Attack Than Formerly — Edmonton and Calgary Liberals More Bitter Than Leader—Announcement of Budget Surplus Received in Stony Silence by Opposition, After Mitchell Had Predicted Deficit

Dechene Protests That Seats Should Have Been Filled

THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 11.—J. M. Dechene, Liberal member for Beaver River, interrupted the formalities of the opening day by a protest against the Legislature holding a session with six seats vacant. He was careful to explain that he was speaking for himself, not for his party.

Premier J. E. Brownlee, who had previously moved that the House take the speech of the Lieutenant-Governor into consideration on Friday, in reply to the member for Beaver River, said he would not take the time of the Assembly on this occasion to reply to the remarks made. He would be surprised if many members of the Legislature held the same opinion as the member for Beaver River. The situation had been very carefully considered by the Government, after gathering the opinions of all sections of the people of the Province. They had considered to the very best of their ability the interests of the people of the Province, and had reached certain conclusions. If his honorable friend wished to, he would have lots of time to move a vote of censure on the Government. They had been governed by questions of public policy, and were convinced that the people of the Province did not wish to have the business of the country upset and the Province put to the expense of by-elections.

Practically the whole of the members were in their places for the opening. The vacant seats, caused by Provincial members seeking office at last Dominion election, are those of Calgary, Claresholm, Edmonton, Edson, Leduc, and Lethbridge.

The Premier's motion, to take the speech into consideration tomorrow, was then carried, only Mr. Dechene and one other Liberal voting "No."

Sparks and Cook Move and Second Address in Reply to Speech

Wetaskiwin Member Urges That Wheat Board Surplus Be Used to Encourage Co-operative Marketing

FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 12.—The business today was light, being confined to the

During the session of the Legislature, "The U. F. A." will publish extensive reports of the daily proceedings in the Assembly, and will give an outline of the important legislative measures brought up for consideration. The first week has been mainly devoted to the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It is anticipated that the debate will be concluded during the present week.

moving and seconding of the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

Mr. Dechene, Liberal member from Beaver River, again interrupted the otherwise formal proceedings of the day by a question as to the manner in which the new Premier had been appointed, and why.

Premier Brownlee, replying, said that a public statement had been made on the change in the Premiership. Everything had been done in strictest accord with constitutional procedure, and if any member wished to inquire further he would have every opportunity.

C. S. Pingle, the new member for Medicine Hat, was introduced by R. C. Marshall, Calgary, and Mrs. McClung, Edmonton.

SPARKS MOVED ADDRESS IN REPLY

E. E. Sparks, U. F. A. member for Wetaskiwin, to whom fell the honor of moving the address in reply, after the usual congratulatory remarks to the new Premier, the new member, and others, said that this was the last session of the first term in this Province of the U.F.A. Government. They had found the business of the Province at a low ebb, departments overstaffed, deficits to face, and many other problems, a difficult situation for a body of men without previous Parliamentary experience. They had proved worthy of the electorate's choice, and had had more trouble with the business initiated by their predecessors than in the administration of their own.

Mr. Sparks spoke of the development and progress that had taken place in Alberta during the past four years. In claiming that the Wheat Pool had come into existence through the efforts largely of the Government he encountered some comment from Opposition benches. He suggested that the \$112,000 which was Alberta's share of the 1919 Wheat Board surplus should be devoted to encouragement of co-operative marketing.

COOK ON IMMIGRATION POLICY

The seconder of the address, E. G. Cook, U. F. A. member for Pincher Creek, joined himself with the senti-

ments expressed by the mover, with respect to the demise of Queen Alexandra, and other matters. The Federal election had thinned the ranks of the Liberal party in the Provincial House, and he wondered what would have been the consequences if Provincial Liberal members had contested other Federal constituencies. This elicited from the opposition benches the comment that there would have been a Liberal majority in Ottawa. He pointed to the encouragement given in the last four years by the Government to the marketing of seed grain, and other products, which had been very beneficial to farmers in his own district. He was not against immigration, but thought it was better that they should develop policies that would keep their own boys at home, and encourage factories to locate here, giving concessions if necessary.

The factories should come to Alberta, where coal existed in immense quantity, rather than the coal be shipped to other Provinces for industrial purposes. Mr. Cook thought perhaps the reason why manufacturers in Ontario were finding they could not compete against imported products was that they were too far from the power resources. In every other country industries had grown up where coal existed. Canada was the only exception.

We should develop our water, coal and oil resources. Natural growth was much better than haphazard immigration. We required more manufacturing industry in our Province. Mr. Cook summarised the necessities of the Province as: Greater development of community and co-operative spirit; wider markets for Alberta coal; rural credits; more manufacturing industry; promotion of markets and employment, to keep our boys in the Province.

Labor Attitude in Contrast to That of Liberal Party

Fred. White Declares Intention of Labor Group Is to Seek to Co-operate, Rather Than to Oppose

MONDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 15.—The position which is taken by the Labor group in regard to legislation and to the Government, in contrast to the attitude of a political party operating on the old plan was very clearly defined in the debate on the address today by F. J. White, leader of the group.

C. R. Mitchell, the Liberal leader, had

set forth that the Liberals would carry out the duty which, he said, was theirs as the "opposition", of opposing the Government policies. The whole duty of opposition, said the Liberal leader, now devolved upon the members of his party. Then, turning towards the Labor benches, he indicated that real opposition could not be expected from the Labor group.

Mr. White's rejoinder was brief, and pointed, and called forth applause from the U. F. A. members.

"We", he said, "take the logical position of co-operation."

E. G. Cook, U. F. A. member for Pincher Creek, who had on Friday seconded the reply to the address from the throne, rose today to call attention to reports which had appeared in several daily newspapers that he had made the statement that he was opposed to immigration. These reports were quite incorrect and gave to the public an entirely false impression of what he had said.

TO AMEND NOXIOUS WEEDS AND HAIL INSURANCE ACTS

A number of bills were introduced by Government members, and given first reading, among them being bills to amend the Noxious Weeds Act; to amend the Pharmaceutical Act; to amend the Municipal Hail Insurance Act; to amend the Factories Act; to amend the Boilers Act; to amend the Superannuation Act; to amend the School Assessment Act; also bill to amend the Alberta Evidence Act.

The agreement regarding the return of the Natural Resources to the Province was laid before the House; also reports from the Lethbridge Northern Colonization project, Compensation Board, and Liquor Control Board.

LEADER OF OPPOSITION PRESENTS CASE

C. R. Mitchell, leader of the opposition, was somewhat mild in his criticism of the Government, as compared with former years, and retained his good humor in the face of jocular comments from Geo. Hoadley.

In his introductory remarks, he said it was quite evident from the number of bills introduced and given first reading that afternoon that a general election was in the offing, and the Government were making a demonstration of the work they were going to do this session. He trusted that the balance of the bills would be brought down early in the session to give the members time to grasp the details.

The mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne had made excellent speeches, but naturally one-sided, he said. It would be his duty to present the other side of the case. There were fair grounds for criticism, and for severe criticism, of the administration of the business of the Province during the past four and a half years.

U. F. A. PRINCIPLES NOT UPHELD

The present Government had attained office as a result of long continued propaganda, misnamed political education. Economy was featured, and the party system was to be broken. Party bias and party considerations were to be abolished. There were to be no more deficits and no more capital expenditures.

They were promised economic group

government, but that had not been realized.

Proceeding, Mr. Mitchell said that the criticism he would make would be of a constructive nature. Bitterness of word and action would be eliminated. This was the last session prior to the election, and what was said here would have an important effect on what would be said in the country.

In contradistinction to his supporter, Mr. Dechene, and some of the press supporting him, Mr. Mitchell merely mentioned that the opposition had been diminished by the fact that there were six resignations, but he made no complaint of this. It was therefore all the more important that the opposition should set itself to the task of carefully scrutinising all legislation, and in other ways help in the work of this session.

The Government had through the establishment of a publicity commissioner, seen to it that their activities were aired in the proper way, and the impression created that the Government was doing great things. Besides their weekly bulletin, the Government had at by-election times the support of a non-descript weekly publication. Of course in this the Government was only doing what the old party governments usually did, and it was logical that the office of publicity commissioner should be under the Department of the political strategist of the Government and former strategist of the Conservative party. When the Liberals came in they would probably continue the Publicity Commissioner in office.

Mr. Hoadley: "He will be an old man by that time."

SAYS DRY AREA PROBLEM NOT SOLVED

Severely criticising the Government for what he declared to be their policy towards the south-east portion of the Province, the opposition leader stated that they had started out well by appointing a strong commissioner, but had never attempted to carry out the recommendations of that commission, with the result that settlers who had been living in the hope that something would be done felt that they were abandoned to their fate. The Medicine Hat by-election showed what the people down there thought of the Government.

Now that another election was in sight, the Government had again mentioned the subject in the address, but only for window dressing purposes. He charged that the Minister of Agriculture had never troubled to visit that section of the country.

The Government had aggravated the situation by continuing the provisions of the Tax Recovery Act, and piling up arrears of taxes against the people in the dry areas.

Economic group government was again being featured, and no doubt would be a strong feature in the elections to come.

He had heard these proposals expounded by the leader of the U. F. A., but had never heard the present Premier or ex-Premier say a word in favor of a policy of this kind. They had applied proportional representation in the cities, but not in the country.

The Direct Legislation Act passed by the previous Government had been amended till it was now worthless.

The Government had brought in an Election Act that was supposed to be

superior to anything ever brought forward in the past, but it did not provide for adequate notice of an election.

"How much notice do you require?" interpolated a Government member, and Mr. Mitchell said that the Liberals were ready now. He could not speak for Mr. McGillivray.

THE FINANCIAL RECORD

Mr. Mitchell said the Government were always claiming that they had found the finances of the Province at a low ebb. That was because of the general conditions in 1921. With improved conditions they should have rectified the situation, but they had not done so. The expenditures were higher, and the income greater.

Mr. Mitchell remarked that the Government had had a deficit in 1924, and added, pointedly, "and you're going to have a deficit this year."

They had saved, however, on education and health, where savings should not have been made at the expense of essentials.

The expense of the Attorney-General's Department had been increased for years by considerable payments to a gentleman now heading a party not represented in the House, and the payments to him represented possibly no small share in the annual deficits.

The Liberals were not ashamed to say that they had left the Province with a substantial bonded debt, for it was all represented by substantial assets, and comprised essential services of the country. But the present Government had added to the debt, and they had very little extra assets to show for it. The public debt of the Province had since 1921 increased by twenty-two and a half million dollars.

SAYS EDUCATION STARVED

The Government had reduced the number of school inspectors, but he believed they were again adding to the number. The Health Department had been relegated to a secondary place. Health matters were not getting the attention they deserved from this administration.

With reference to the Educational Tax bill now proposed, he said that it had received the support of the U. F. A., but it was really a treasury bill, not an educational bill. Instead of abolishing the supplementary revenue tax the Government proposed adding an extra three mills to the taxes against farm lands.

"HAVE YOU JOINED THE WHEAT POOL?"

He favored turning the Wheat Board surplus over for use in the promotion of co-operative enterprises. He was in favor of co-operative marketing. The present Government had no patent on co-operative marketing.

Mr. Buckley—"Have you joined the Wheat Pool?"

Mr. Mitchell did not answer the question, contenting himself with asking in a bantering way whether Mr. Buckley had "gone to Bolivia."

THE PREMIERSHIP

While there had been very little opposition to any measure brought down by the ex-Premier, yet since last session he had been deposed. The public had been kept in the dark as to why we had a new Premier.

(Continued on page 8)

Alberta Members Concentrate on Plans for Legislation While Orgy of Talk at Ottawa Continues

Substantial Progress Being Made in Preparation of Draft of Legislation for Farm Loans Scheme—In the Meantime, Old Straw Is Beaten Into Chaff in Time-wasting Speeches of Conservatives—Customs Investigation Should Be Thorough and Non-partizan

By L. H. JELLIFF, M.P.

The very interesting article from the pen of my colleague, Mr. Robert Gardiner, M.P., featured in your issue of February 1st, delegates to me the task of reviewing the happenings in the Dominion Parliament since the date of his letter. That is a very large order, indeed, if it means a review of the long and tedious speeches which have intervened during that period, and it would be futile to attempt to fill the same within your allotted space.

This is sufficiently evidenced, perhaps, by the fact that the pages of Hansard from the opening of the present Session already number 1024. The actual progress, however, recorded during this period of some thirty days, in which the constitutional and political history of Canada, Great Britain and the world in general have been under review, together with the sins of commission and omission of the parties which have at different periods ruled this country, is briefly this—that the King Government, minus Mr. King, and dubbed by the Conservatives as "the so-called Government," continues to occupy the Treasury benches and that the vital issue of the acceptance of the speech from the throne, which must determine the fate of the Government, is still uncertain.

To be sure there have been amendments and sub-amendments proposed and disposed of during this period, and there is now under lengthy discussion one calling in question certain features of the Australian treaty which became effective on October last. There are rumors of other amendments in the offing, to be brought forward in regular sequence, and discussed ad infinitum, which promise to take up hundreds of more pages of Hansard and kill the time of Parliament but the net result of it all to date is as summarized above.

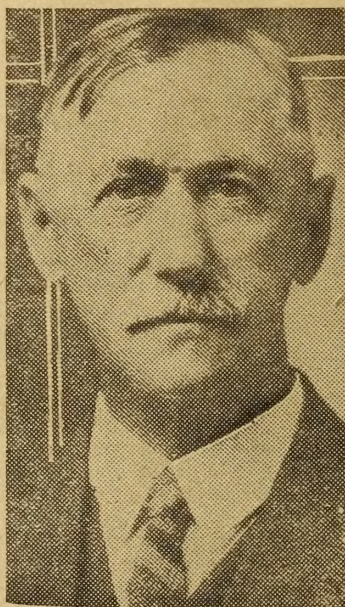
OLD STRAW BEATEN INTO CHAFF

For many days Parliament has been engaged, especially on the Opposition side, in threshing old straw. It has already been beaten into the finest chaff and the continuing process results in the recovery of no new kernels of thought. In fact it would be as difficult to discover a new suggestion in this torrent of outworn partisan argument, as to find nuggets of gold in the noonday hash. Time is wasted in this process. The preparation of legislation which the country wants is inexcusably delayed. Confidence in Parliament and its proceedings is shaken.

Much of the matter presented in this orgy of talk has little if any relevancy to the amendments or questions under immediate consideration. This is not intended to mean that the speeches made are of an inferior character. On the contrary there have been many speeches of a very high order both as regards the subject matter and the manner of delivery, but their great number and the lengthy repetition of the same arguments

The second article in the series by U. F. A. members of the House of Commons is published below. The article was written by Mr. Jelliff on February 12th, but the apparently interminable debate to which he refers is still continuing as this issue goes to press. The Farmer members are spending the interval, pending the close of this long-drawn-out debate, in forwarding plans for legislation in the interests of the primary industry.

has become very monotonous and has not made for progress. If made at a time, also, when the matter presented related to specific items of legislation before the House, these speeches would be both valuable and helpful. To analyze and trace the relationship of much that has been uttered in these discussions would be as difficult and profitless as to endeavor to unravel a skein of yarn after a bevy of kittens had been playing in it. Through it all, there is so much bitter partisan spirit manifest, that the effect for good is greatly minimized. To those



L. H. JELLIFF, M.P.

not allured by the "sweets of office" and calmly surveying the situation, it appears at times as an exhibition of partisanship gone mad.

CHARGE IRREGULARITIES IN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

Reference should be made to an amendment which was presented to the Government proposal for an adjournment until March 15th for the by-elections to fill cabinet positions, the adjournment to take place as soon as the debate on the speech from the throne is disposed of. An amendment was presented to this

proposal by the Hon. H. H. Stevens, M.P. for Vancouver Centre, B.C., in which allegations were made of grave irregularities in the Department of Customs and Excise and urging an investigation by a special committee of the House. Mr. Stevens supported his amendment in a strong and caustic speech, which was met with an equally forcible rejoinder by the recently appointed Minister of Customs and Excise, Hon. G. H. Boivin. The demand for an investigation was promptly granted by the Government, and a special committee of nine members of the House appointed for this investigation consisting of four each from the Liberal and Conservative Parties, and one from the Progressive ranks, the choice from the latter falling upon D. M. Kennedy, M.P. for Peace River, Alberta. Subsequently the Government motion to adjourn as soon as the debate on the speech from the throne is terminated, was carried.

This investigation should go on vigorously. It should be thorough and impartial. The probe should extend to the customs administrations under both parties. It should not be made for the purpose of contributing to the political capital of any party, but to effect a complete house cleaning in the interests of good and efficient administration for the benefit of the whole country.

Subsequent to the Stevens amendment others followed and the stream of oratory continues to flow, and there seems little prospect of cessation until it dries up at the source. In the meantime the Progressives are sitting tight and urging forward the preparation of legislation which it feels the country needs.

MEETINGS WITH MARITIME MEMBERS

Of very practical interest and importance to Alberta, have been the joint meetings held by the Progressive and Maritime members, to discuss the problem of marketing the coal from Alberta and the Maritimes in the Central Provinces. There is an identity of interest and effort among these two groups in this movement and their combined influence will undoubtedly result in forward steps being taken to supply the Canadian market with Canadian coal to a much greater extent than in the past. Already there is assurance that the Government will cause a careful investigation to be made by the Railway Commission to determine the minimum cost of transporting coal, from the Eastern and Western sources to the Central Provinces, at the season of the year most favorable for economical movement and in train load lots.

Of interest especially to the farmers is the fact that substantial progress is being made in the preparation for submission to Parliament of legislation for the establishment of a land loan system, under which lower rates of interest will

be imposed than now obtain on land loans in the West, and with amortization features.

It is with matters of this nature that the Alberta members are keenly interesting themselves during the orgy of speech going on in the House, because they are matters of the most vital concern to the people of their constituencies.

TRAINING IN PARLIAMENTARY RULES

Bon Accord Junior Local has adopted the plan of having a new president every two months, with a view to training as many members as possible. Two debates and a dance are planned for the near future, writes the secretary, Miss Irene McKenzie.

SOME DETAILS OF PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTS

In answer to Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Reid stated in the Legislature on February 18th, that accounts payable to the Province as at December 31st, 1925, remaining unpaid at that date, but charged to and forming part of the expenditure of 1925, totalled \$1,124,369.55, on income account, comprised of \$1,005,343.26 accrued charges on public debt and \$119,026.29 on miscellaneous accounts; on capital account the total was \$97,438.82.

The cash balance on hand and in banks to the credit of the Province on December 31st, 1925, was, in General Revenue Fund, \$2,218,487.35, less collections, etc., applicable to 1926, leaving the balance for 1925 account, \$1,239,793.72.

Sympathetic Government Important Factor in Growth Co-operative Marketing Movement

Report of Poultry Pool to U. F. A. Annual Convention Indicates That Alberta Government Committee Has Been of Great Assistance to New Enterprises

The report of the Board of Directors of the Poultry Pool, presented to the Annual Convention by Mrs. F. E. Wyman, secretary-treasurer, began with a reference to the resolution passed by the 1925 Convention, urging the Association to bring a Poultry Pool into existence as soon as possible.

In carrying out these instructions, the report continues, "the organization work of the U. F. W. A. and the Poultry Pool during the past year became so allied and interlocking as to become almost identical. Up until the time the Poultry Pool office was opened on October 12th at 526-8 Lougheed Building, the room occupied by the vice-president of the U. F. W. A. was the office of the Poultry Pool. The machinery of the U. F. A. and U. F. W. A. organization was used. The expenses of the Pool secretary were pro-rated between both organizations, as were also those of the U. F. W. A. directors who were used to do the organization work for both associations—to their mutual advantage.

APPRECIATION OF U. F. A. AND FARMER GOVERNMENT

"We appreciate the fact that this movement was called into being by the U. F. A. organization and cradled in its parental arms. We also appreciate another fact—that without the subsequent care and sustenance afforded by an actively sympathetic Government this movement could not have maintained its life and present growth. The members of the Co-operative Marketing Committee of the Government, Premier Brownlee, Hon. George Hoadley and Hon. R. G. Reid, have been most helpful and considerate.

"We further appreciate the fact that the press of the Province has given generously of its space."

A history of the joint Pool drive, held in June, shows that five hundred meetings were arranged for and held throughout the Province, and the drive resulted in sufficient contracts to enable each Pool to proceed with its permanent organization.

ELECTION OF

PERMANENT BOARD

The election of the Permanent Board, held according to the method outlined in

the Articles of the Poultry Pool Association, resulted in the following Board coming into office: H. C. McDaniel, Whitla; Mrs. F. E. Wyman, Baintree; Mrs. C. B. Bellamy, Olds; Mrs. E. E. Sparks, Brightview; H. Sheardown, Bulwark; Mrs. Geo. Dieffenbaugh, Westlock; Mrs. R. B. Gunn, New Lindsay. These directors met and elected Mrs. Gunn, chairman, Mr. McDaniel vice-chairman, and Mrs. Wyman secretary-treasurer. The policies of the Board were outlined, and the details left to these officers, who formed the executive committee.

AGREEMENT WITH MARKETING SERVICE

At the next meeting of the Board, on October 31st, reports were given of conferences with the Government, with banks, and of investigations of numerous commercial propositions. Two suggestions had been made by Premier Brownlee, who had been approached by the executive committee for advice. One of these, that the Government continue the Egg and Poultry Marketing Service, entering into an agreement with the Pool whereby the Service would act as sales agent, according to policies approved by the Pool Board, was accepted. It was decided to increase the effort to augment the strength of the Pool, and to carry out the policy of organizing local poultry Pool associations. The Pool began operations on Thanksgiving Day, November 9th, under this agreement.

POULTRY AND EGG POOL PERIODS

"Arrangements are being made," says the report, "for four Poultry Pool periods, four Egg Pool periods, and one Turkey Pool period, during each year. All produce is graded on arrival at the Pool receiving station. Eighty per cent. of the market price is given as an initial payment, and the final payment at the end of the Pool period.

"For Pool purposes, the Lacombe-Stettler line forms at present the boundary line of the Province. All produce north of this line should be sent to the Edmonton receiving plant; all produce south, to the Calgary or Lethbridge plants."

The initial price is based on the price paid by the wholesale jobber to the pro-

ducer, not what the consumer pays the retail merchant. All producers, even if living close to a home market, should join the Pool and endeavor to make it such a success that the volume and quality of the produce would enable the Pool to procure the best possible wholesale price.

MUST MAKE REVOLUTION IN METHODS

"As a commercial enterprise, the Pool is but in its infancy, and to get the best returns to the producer, almost an entire revolution will have to be made in the methods of production and marketing." Stock in the average farm flock is not the proper kind for commercial purposes and should be replaced by "bred-to-lay" fowl. Early hatching, proper care of eggs before shipment, proper care of young poultry, etc., are urged in the report which continues:

"The marketing of the poultry produce of the Province is done in a very unsystematic way. Seventy-five per cent. of the egg production is marketed in a season of three months. The remaining twenty-five per cent. is spread over the other nine months. One producer has records to prove that during October and November last he had a thirty per cent. production. For the other months of the year he has a production of fifty per cent. and over. What he can do, other producers can do. This would result in a more uniform market and stabilize the price.

"The slogan the Pool would like to spread throughout the Province is: 'Market your poultry while the wheat is growing.'"

The report concludes by stating the need for education in the matter of killing, dressing, chilling and packing produce for shipment, and by announcing that the Pool would send out from time to time seasonable instructions and suggestions.

AN ACTIVE YEAR AT WINDY HILL

Windy Hill U. F. W. A. Local have had interesting meetings every month during the past year, according to a report from the secretary, Mrs. F. A. Watt. In most cases the monthly bulletins sent out from Central Office were made the basis of discussion, while members of the Local contributed additional papers on such topics as co-operation, the history of the U. F. A., education, rural high schools, labor conditions in Scotland (by a recent visitor to the old country), etc. The February meeting took the form of a banquet, and the May meeting was held in a grove on Tongue Creek, tea being served around a camp fire. When the Federal election campaign opened, the Local decided to pay up dues and arrears of dues to the Federal Constituency Association. \$340 was realized from a sale of work in the late fall, in aid of the Junior Red Cross. A donation was made to the Wood Christian Orphan Home at Olds, and assistance was given to the upkeep of the High River Rest Room.

LECTURE ON CHILD WELFARE

The members of the Gleichen U. F. W. A. and friends listened to a very instructive and interesting lecture on "Child Welfare" given by Miss B. A. Emerson of the Department of Public Health, Edmonton, in the Meadow Brook Community Hall, February 9th. This Local hopes it will be possible to hold a Baby Clinic in the near future.

Banking Committee, in Report to Convention, Appeals to All Locals to Make Intensive Study of Credit Question

Expresses Satisfaction That Recommendations of Last Year's Convention Regarding Amendment of Bankruptcy Act Are Now Embodied in Dominion Statutes

In reviewing the work of your Committee during the year just past, we are glad to report that at least some progress has been made towards securing a system of Agricultural Credits.

We are glad to be able to report that the recommendations of the last U.F.A. Convention in regard to amendments to the Bankruptcy Act have been considered and adopted by the Federal House, and are now a part of our Dominion Statutes, thereby putting the agricultural industry on a par with other industries in this respect.

It will be remembered that a bill was brought down and passed by our Federal House of Parliament providing for a system of Agricultural Credits. This bill, however, was killed in the Senate.

It can thereby be seen that the Amendments to the Bankruptcy Act are the only tangible results secured during the past year.

Doctor Tory, of the University at Edmonton, who has made a very comprehensive study of the whole question of Rural Credits, and who was delegated by the Dominion Government some years ago to investigate the whole field of Agricultural Credit, has completed his work and brought in a very detailed report, which is well worthy of thoughtful and serious consideration. It is indeed most interesting to note that Doctor Tory's recommendations, which were the basis of the Credits Bill brought down in the Federal House in the session of 1925, were very similar to the resolution passed by our U. F. A. Convention of last year.

INCREASING ATTENTION TO CREDIT QUESTION

We note with satisfaction that there is an ever increasing volume of attention and study being devoted to the question of the basis and control of our currency and credit. Leading men in almost every industry and in almost every walk of life are giving a great deal of serious consideration to this very important question. The press has also realized the seriousness of the situation, and a number of leading publications and newspapers have given an ever-increasing amount of space to the discussions of the various phases of the question. Our U. F. A. Federal representatives are on record as noting the great interest being taken in the question all over the Dominion.

Last December a conference on Credit Reform was held in Saskatoon. This meeting, which was inter-Provincial in scope, was attended by some of our Western farmer Federal members and a number of men who have taken a very active part in concentrating public opinion on this question. As a result of this meeting we look for a more intelligent and co-ordinated effort along the lines of Credit reform. We note with a measure of satisfaction that an Advisory Board has been appointed by the Provincial Government to survey the

The report of the Banking and Credit Committee 1925, which was presented at the Annual Convention last month, is given in full below.

whole field of Agricultural Credits and to advise the Government as to their conclusions. This Board, we believe, is now functioning.

Your Committee, in reviewing the activities of the past and weighing our conclusions for the future, regret very much indeed to report that there is, and has been, a serious lack of co-ordinated effort and consultation between your Banking and Credit Committee, the Provincial Government, and our Federal members. Until these representative bodies get on a much closer co-operative, co-ordinated basis than they are at the present time, we cannot reasonably hope for the successful harmonious results which should be realized. In view of the foregoing we must of necessity recommend that the resolution in regard to Rural Credits passed at the last U. F. A. Convention be reindorsed, and we would further recommend to our U. F. A. members in the Federal House that they use all their influence towards the establishment of a National Bank.

In conclusion, we would appeal to all the U. F. A. Locals to make a more intensive study of the whole finance question.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) Geo. Bevington, A. F. Aitken, J. K. Sutherland.

OUR CONTRACT RECOMMENDED TO COLORADO BEAN GROWERS

The Alberta Wheat Pool recently received a letter from J. F. Yandell of Simla, Colorado, U. S. A., advising that the bean growers of that state were taking steps toward organizing a bean pool and were anxious to secure copies of our members' agreement, which had been strongly recommended to them. Copies are being sent promptly, together with our best wishes for the success of their efforts and the assurance of our willingness to help them out in any way possible.

LABOR ATTITUDE IN CONTRAST TO THAT OF LIBERAL PARTY

(Continued from page 5)

No one was accusing the present Prime Minister of in any way pushing himself forward for the position (applause) but he was accusing the caucus for "swapping horses crossing the stream." Questioned regarding Sifton's appointment in 1910, Mr. Mitchell said that was not done by a caucus, but because the former Minister found himself out of touch with

the feeling of the country. He resigned of his own accord.

While in Eastern Canada recently he had heard very good opinions of ex-Premier Greenfield, and had never heard one word of criticism of his personal character. (Loud applause from all parts of the Assembly.)

The present demonstration in favor of rural credits was only a pre-election scheme. If the Tories continued to hold up the business at Ottawa there would be no rural credits measure this session. **WANTS NORTHERN RAILWAYS**

The lines of northern railways in this Province tapped some of the richest districts, and in view of the immigration projects, he and his followers would only be too willing to co-operate with the Government in providing extensions in the north.

The acquirement of the natural resources of the Province would be the main business this session. The resources should be placed directly under a Minister of the Crown, not under a commission.

In conclusion Mr. Mitchell urged that the work of this session be done with a view to serving the interests of the public rather than to "fix up our political fences."

He urged a revision of the loaning legislation, to allow a freer flow of capital, and a readjustment of municipal and Provincial taxation.

LABOR'S

VIEWPOINT

F. J. White, Calgary, replying to the address on behalf of the Labor group, said Hon. C. R. Mitchell spoke on behalf of the official opposition. The Labor attitude was not of opposition, but of co-operation. The Liberals in Ottawa were offering to co-operate, why not in Edmonton.

The Premier was to be commended on the full letter sent out to the municipalities regarding the power question. He was surprised at the action of the Federal authorities in laying down that certain definite proposals must be laid down before the Province could claim the Spray Lakes power rights.

The Minister of Public Works had given good service to the people on the gas question.

Cheap power was essential to industrial activity. The best way to assure cheap power was for the Province to itself develop the power. Provincial ownership was more efficient than private ownership. If the private plants on the Bow River could be acquired at a reasonable figure they should be included in the scheme.

WATERPOWER CHEAPER THAN COAL

Objection had been made by steam engineers to the development of Spray Lakes by steam engineers. The city of Calgary was getting power now at .55 cents per kilowatt, only one-third of the cheapest rate in steam generated plants. At Drumheller, with coal at their doors, residents were paying 16 cents per kilowatt for light, as against 6 cents at Calgary.

The Spray Lakes project would be developed. The people of the Province would pay for its development whether it was developed by the Province or by private interests. The life of a hydro-electric plant was much longer than that of a steam plant, and action should be taken soon, so that municipalities would

not have to invest more money in steam plants.

CRITICIZES MANUFACTURERS

When the representatives of the Alberta Federation of Labor came before the Government in January they did not attempt to criticize the viewpoint of other interests, but no sooner had they left Edmonton than in came representatives of the manufacturers asking that Labor's requests be not granted.

The manufacturer who was fair had nothing to fear from Labor. It was the unfair manufacturer whom society should be protected against. Some night watchmen, for instance, had to work 100 hours per week, and some employers were taking advantage of the Minimum Wage Act for women to employ men at less than the women's minimum wage.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUGGESTIONS

His suggestion for the disposal of the \$112,000 Wheat Board surplus was that it be the nucleus of an unemployment fund. Unemployment was usually caused by the seasonal nature of farming in the Province. What became of the individuals who worked for the farmers during the rush periods? The industry should take care of the individuals engaged in it. Some systematic method should be adopted to alleviate the present conditions.

Mr. Washburn, M.L.A. for Stony Plain, asked if the suggestion was that the farm laborers have a certain amount deducted from their wages to cover unemployment. Mr. White did not agree with this, and said the industry as a whole should bear the burden. The men were willing to work the year round. It was not their fault that work was not available.

The speaker congratulated the Minister of Education on his policy of having school books printed in Alberta, and said that it had been a considerable help to the printing industry. He also dealt with the proposed changes in the Workmen's Compensation Act, and contended that they would not constitute a greater burden on employers. The Mother's Al-

lowance Act should be extended to take care of wives whose husbands were incapacitated.

Mr. White moved adjournment of the debate, reserving the balance of his address till Tuesday.

TOTAL BOND DEBT

\$81,459,406.62 ON DEC. 31

The Provincial Treasurer informed Mr. Mitchell that the total bond debt of the Province as at December 31st, 1925, was \$81,459,406.62; the amount of the sinking fund at the above date was \$1,995,573.09; special investment fund \$781,167.18; amount of Provincial savings certificates \$7,675,821.50. The debt of the Province on overdraft was \$1,500,000 in treasury bills, of which \$1,000,000 has since been retired. Since December 31st last, bonds other than refunding bonds sold total \$1,250,000, sold on January 15th, 1926.

Urges Systematic Exploitation of Natural Resources

White Suggests Government Take Title to Lands Seized on Account of Failure to Pay Taxes, and Lease to Farmers

TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 16.—Resuming the debate Tuesday, F. J. White, Labor member for Calgary, declared that the Labor party was opposed to haphazard exploitation of oil and other resources. It desired careful conservation for the benefit of the people. There had been much waste in timber and coal resources in the past. He hoped that in the great mineral development that was coming, the Government policy would be to give great care to this important question.

LONG TENURE ON LEASED LANDS

Much land was held by the Province at present, having been seized on ac-

count of failure of the owner to pay his taxes. Mr. White believed that the Government should take full title to such lands, which should be leased to individuals. This would leave the occupier free to put his money into improvements and stock, and would encourage people to move from urban centres and go to the country, where they could make a better livelihood. Existing regulations should be changed and security of tenure given to leaseholders.

Instancing the long continued dispute between Blairmore school trustees and the teachers, Mr. White asked for legislation that would permit disputes of this nature to be arbitrated. The situation was even worse for the children than for the teachers.

Mr. White recorded a protest against the appointment of a non-union man to the position of King's Printer. The farmers believed in organization, and it was only right that they should recognize the claims of other organizations when making appointments. The "Civil Service Bulletin" had mentioned that the ordinary printer was not fit to hold a position requiring executive ability, but there were men belonging to the printers' organizations who were perfectly capable of holding the position, while the present incumbent was not qualified to be a member of the union.

MEMBERS WHO PENALIZE THEIR CONSTITUENCIES

Speaking for his colleague and himself, he was quite satisfied to have the half dozen vacancies unfilled at this time in the Assembly. Members should not be able to resign their seats by their own whim or on the request of their friends. When a man took office he should fulfil his term. It would be a good principle to let a constituency know that if its member dropped out without very good reason, but merely to seek a seat in another legislative body, that constituency would be without representation in the Assembly he was leaving.

Questioned by another Calgary member, R. C. Marshall, as to whether that was the Labor viewpoint, Mr. White rejoined that he had not had an opportunity to consult his colleague, but he believed that the Labor party would be inclined to say that members they elected should fulfil their obligations.

Mr. Brownlee's speech is reported elsewhere. No session will be held tomorrow (Ash Wednesday).

Increasing Prosperity Follows Adoption of the New Policy of Development Lethbridge Northern

Over 14,537 Irrigable Acres Brought Under Production in 1925, Making Total of 53,262 Acres—Over \$600,000 Increase in Value of Production

Indication of increasing prosperity attending the operations of the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation project under the new conditions provided by the legislation of last year, was afforded by the report on the system laid before the Provincial Assembly on February 15th.

The report, submitted by James Pike, manager of the project, shows an increase in agricultural production within the project, as compared with 1924, of \$645,586. In 1925 there were registered 377 home place farm units, making a total of 53,262 irrigable acres.

There were colonized 14,537 irrigable acres, the new additions to population being 138 families.

Water rates collected in 1924 and 1925 from water users amounted to \$76,929.38. The 1924 and 1925 rates advanced

by the Government totalled \$503,128.48.

The total cost of operating the district in 1925, not including bond interest, was \$84,286.61.

The capital cost of the system per acre is \$55, the payments being stretched over a period of fifty years. The annual payments to be made by settlers during the first few years are light, the balance being made up by the Government. In the later years the settlers pay the major portion of the cost.

The report professes satisfaction with the progress being made, and states that the farmers are showing a fine spirit of co-operation in ensuring the success of the project. Tribute is also paid to the assistance given by the Dominion Experimental Farm at Lethbridge, and others.

"Look at Russia and Italy," --- Bowen in Attack on U.F.A.

Edmonton Liberal Predicts Dire Results From Carrying Out of Principles of U. F. A.—Baker Discusses Misrepresentation

WEDNESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 18.—J. C. Bowen, Liberal member for Edmonton, assailed the principles of the U. F. A. in the debate on the address in the Assembly today, declaring on the one hand that these principles if carried to their logical conclusion, would mean the "secession of Alberta from the other Provinces of Confederation"; and suggesting that all the members need do to convince them-

selves of the danger of departing from the old party system was "to look at Russia and Italy", and to consider the downfall of the Ramsay MacDonald Government in Great Britain. At another point in his speech, however, Mr. Bowen claimed that the U. F. A. Government "looked like the old Tory party grown senile in office."

EVIL EFFECT OF OLD PARTY SPIRIT

Mr. Bowen was answered by Perren Baker, Minister of Education, who commented on the "spirit of bitterness" and the "gloomy outlook" of the Edmonton member, called attention to the fact that the glory of British institutions had always been their adaptability to changing conditions by periodic modification, and cited, as an example of the unfortunate effects of the old party spirit, the unresponsive and unenthusiastic manner in which the announcement of a surplus by the Government had been received by the Liberals, who, it would appear, would have preferred a deficit.

Mr. Bowen, while he spoke with some bitterness, seemed to be exercising more than usual restraint, and his speech was in fact, far less aggressively critical than his speeches in former sessions.

In opening, he regretted the circumstances which had led, he said, to the "deposition" of the former Premier, without provision being made for him to take any other portfolio, and stating that the public ought to be given further information.

Referring to Premier Brownlee's comment on the fact that the Liberals at Ottawa were seeking the support of the Farmer members, Mr. Bowen said that these members had "no place else to go" at Ottawa, except to the support of some Government policies.

Reviewing the policy of the U. F. A. administration since it came into office, the Edmonton Liberal member remarked that the Government had had a series of deficits, due to ineffective tackling of the task of reducing expenses. If there were a surplus for 1925, said he, he was glad of it, but the Government had lacked the energy and ability to handle Provincial business as it should have been handled. He thought they had taken too long to get a definite arrangement for the transfer of the Natural Resources to the Province, and he was afraid that if these resources came into their hands, they would be lacking in the energy necessary for effective administration of them.

CREDITED WITH STATEMENTS HE NEVER MADE

Mr. Bowen was proceeding to read from an article which appeared in the Financial Post, containing a statement alleged to have been made by Mr. Brownlee in an interview, with reference to oil development, when the Premier rose to state that he had been credited in this interview with statements which he had never made, and that he had written to the editor of the Financial Post to this effect. Mr. Bowen said he did not wish to quote from an article which was unfair and misrepresented the Premier's views.

The Edmonton member charged the Government with lacking a policy in respect to the Northern railroads. He again brought the Premier to his feet when he suggested that the Government had waited until near the end of its term

to "show some interest in freight rates." **ONE OF GOVERNMENT'S FIRST ACTIONS**

"One of the Government's first actions, when it came into office," said Mr. Brownlee, "was to engage in the fight for the restoration of the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement."

Then, said Mr. Bowen, the Government had not asked for the application of those rates to the Western route until quite recently.

"The honorable member is wrong. He is making statements which are absolutely inaccurate," rejoined the Premier, who added that the whole matter of freight rates would be reviewed in the Assembly very fully during the course of the session. For the past three years this matter had engaged their attention.

Mr. Bowen went on to discuss immigration, stating that the member for Pincher Creek, Mr. Cook, did not appear to be enthusiastic about new settlers, and that the U. F. A. Convention was against immigration. It was premature to talk of the success of the Lethbridge Northern, thought the member for Edmonton. Referring to Premier Brownlee's comments on the progress made in colonization of this irrigated area, Mr. Bowen suggested that as many of the settlers had come from the dry areas of the Province, and not from outside, this kind of colonization was nothing to "boast" about.

DIFFERING VIEWS ON "COLONIZATION"

Premier Brownlee: "I was stating my views on colonization, not the honorable member's."

When Mr. Bowen went on to say that "the sooner the Pools were taken out of politics the better," he was greeted with the comments from the U. F. A. benches: "It's never been in," and "That's right—you keep it out." He said that the Wheat Pool was not initiated by the Government, but by two newspapers.

ORIGINATED WITH FARMERS OF THE PROVINCE

"No," interjected Sam Brown of High River, "It originated with the farmers of this Province long before the Herald thought of it."

Mr. Bowen remarked scornfully in reference to the reductions of staff made by the Government that "for all the Government had done while in office, it might as well have wiped out half the civil service." A Government which claimed to serve the interests of all had cut down expenditures in education, and economized at the cost of widows and mothers who were entitled to mothers' allowances.

U. F. A. PLAN WOULD CAUSE "CONSTERNATION"

The President of the U. F. A., in his Annual Address, had not discussed what the Government had done, but had emphasized first the democratic method of choosing representatives followed by the U. F. A., and secondly, the industrial basis of the political movement. Within itself, thought Mr. Bowen, the U. F. A. might be democratic enough, but it did not represent all the citizens.

There was a Labor member in the Cabinet, but the Government did not apply the principles of trades unionism. On what basis could the "white collared brigade" co-operate with the U. F. A.? Could the cities come in; and upon what basis? Even if the Government took in

representatives from the cities, this would not be co-operation, but only an "arrangement." President Wood's idea was that only agriculture should be represented as an industry. If the U. F. A. plan were put into effect, it would bring consternation from one end of Canada to the other.

Mr. Bowen contended that to refer to the old party system as "discredited" was unfair, because some of the great men of the past had been members of political parties—men like Papineau and Laurier. Canada was today an outstanding example of government of, by and for the people.

PERREN BAKER ON SPIRIT OF GLOOM

Perren Baker, Minister of Education, said he had been struck more by the gloomy, bitter manner in which Mr. Bowen had spoken than by the matter of his speech.

"We have never had a more striking illustration of the evils of the party system than this debate has provided," continued the Minister. "For the past four years column after column has appeared in the press about Alberta's deficit, and every deficit has always been given great prominence in the speeches of members of the parties."

ANNOUNCEMENT RECEIVED IN STONY SILENCE

"Yet the other day, when the Prime Minister made the notable announcement that the Province has a surplus, this announcement was received in stony silence by the members opposite—without applause, without a smile. I believe the announcement of this important improvement in the affairs of the Province did not give pleasure to a good many of these members—that they would have been pleased, in fact, if there had been a deficit. This is an example of what the party spirit can do."

Mr. Baker's statement provoked some cries of protest from the Liberal benches.

The Minister proceeded to discuss the heavy handicaps which had confronted the Government when they came into office late in 1921, the expenditure for which year was over \$2,000,000 greater than in 1920. An additional capital debt of \$16,000,000 was incurred on account of commitments of that year, which meant \$900,000 of new interest charges. There was a gap of nearly \$3,000,000 in 1922 between the ordinary expenditure of 1922 on the scale that had been built up by the old Government, and the ordinary revenue and a deficit of \$2,000,000 occurred in that year. Then certain cuts in expenditure were made; the deficit in 1923 showed a heavy reduction.

Referring to the warnings given by Mr. Mitchell himself, when he was Provincial Treasurer, to the effect that the expenditures had been mounting much too rapidly, Mr. Baker said he did not think the Liberal leader would deny that cuts were needed. He would not deny that when the cost of education increased by half a million dollars in 1921 as compared with 1920, the department was getting "a little ahead of the times."

MR. MITCHELL EXPRESSED NO DISSSENT. MINISTER WHO SPENT "TOO MUCH MONEY"

Mr. Hoadley then called attention to a statement which he said had been

made by the former Provincial Treasurer (Mr. Mitchell), to the effect that the former Minister of Education (Geo. P. Smith), was "spending too much money." Mr. Mitchell did not deny this.

Although the Department had made many economies, said Mr. Baker, continuing, Mr. Mitchell had used figures which were quite wrong when he stated that the actual expenditure of the Department in 1925 was less than in 1921, for the figures which had been used did not include interest on the University debt. While the figures in the estimates indicated a reduction of \$27,000, the cost of the institute for Mental Defectives, which was included in the 1921 estimates, was not included in the estimates for 1925. In 1925, the expenditure on this institute was \$25,000. Moreover, the overhead for the School of Technology at Calgary, not included in Mr. Mitchell's figures, was \$40,000 greater in 1925.

FEW HAVE GONE TO THE U. S. A.

Mr. Baker proceeded to deal with the work of the University, whose great value, he said, could not be doubted. The number of students in the term ending June, 1925, was 1,354, including correspondence students. As to the charge that the University was training students who were lost to other countries after graduation, Mr. Baker said that of the total of over one thousand students who had graduated, only sixty were now in the United States, and of these from twenty to twenty-five were taking graduate courses and would return to Canada. Of the graduates in Agriculture, only three had taken permanent positions in the United States. Mr. Baker announced that there were in training about eight hundred teachers at the Normal schools. There were enrolled at the School of Technology 873 students, of whom 424 were day students, 302 night students, and 147 correspondence students.

Dragging Education Into Politics

Obviously alluding to the Leader of the Conservative Party, who has in public speeches condemned the present school curriculum and declared that he would make drastic changes if given the opportunity, by "cutting out the fads and frills," Mr. Baker remarked that the gentleman who had "dragged this question into the political arena was evidently not aware of what had been going on."

Mr. Mitchell: "Isn't that characteristic of a new broom?"

Mr. Baker rejoined that sometimes a broom could not sweep at all. He went on to point out that the revision of the curriculum which has now been carried out, was the result of several years' work by a body appointed some years ago. About 1920, the former Government appointed a representative body to advise on the elementary school curriculum. Boards of Trade, Labor bodies, the U. F. W. A., Women's Institutes, the Teachers' Alliance and the press all were represented. After they had drawn up a general outline of subjects, their recommendations were submitted to a committee of the teaching profession; courses were authorized and the new curriculum was now being followed. Mr. Baker said he himself as Minister would not have felt competent to draw up a curriculum, and the criticism of the gentleman who was attacking the curriculum now, was

really criticism of the representative bodies who assisted in its preparation.

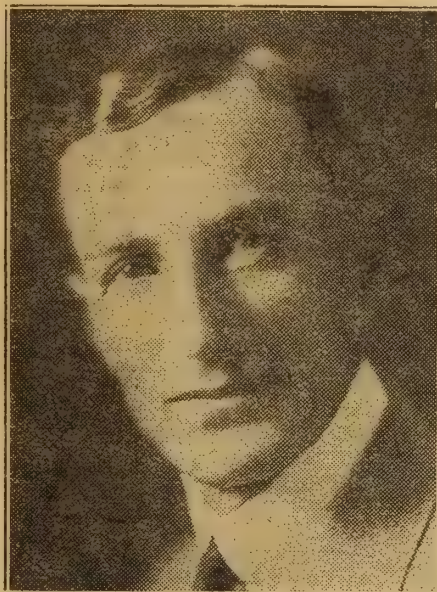
It might be that the standard was too high, but the fact was that there were no subjects, except physiology and hygiene, which were not on the former curriculum, and not a single subject that was not taught in every other Province. These, then, were the "fads and frills."

The percentage of failures had not been higher in Alberta than elsewhere. If the standard were lowered, it would mean that teachers would go to Normal less well equipped than they are to-day.

"In any event," said the Minister, "there are ways of making any necessary changes without dragging this question into the dirty field of party politics. Education should be out of politics, but it seems almost impossible to keep it out, under the party system, where in order to take any share in Government, it is felt necessary to try to push someone else out."

AVERAGE MONTHLY ATTENDANCE IMPROVES

Mr. Baker stated that the average monthly attendance at the schools had shown improvement in the last few years. In 1920 it was 82.76 per cent.; whereas in 1925 it had been 87.44. The average period of operation had been 184.6 days



HON. PERREN BAKER

in 1922, and 184.7, without variation, during the succeeding years.

Mr. Baker quoted from reports of speeches of Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Bowen in the Medicine Hat by-election campaign, in which Mr. Mitchell was stated to have said that the Government proposed to "bolster up the revenues" by imposing a three mills land tax, and Mr. Bowen that the Government had "prepared a bill that would add three mills to everybody's taxes." Both of these statements were untrue, as applied to the legislation which had been proposed (though now withdrawn in favor of another plan). The proposal had been a "single minded attempt to benefit the weaker parts of the Province."

ALBERTA LIBERALS BECOMING MORIBUND

Mr. Baker, in conclusion, said that it was not by turning their faces in their own day and generation, to the past that

the men whose names had become immortal in British and Canadian history had served their country. British institutions had been continuously in process of development. There was nothing more British than this process of change. Tomorrow's social scheme would be unlike yesterday's, and it was not by denouncing such an organization as the U. F. A. that the Liberals could hope to gain. At one time the Liberals had led the Progressive forces. "Today, however, in Alberta," said the Minister, "the Liberal party is reactionary and fast becoming moribund."

At the opening of the sitting various orders for returns were agreed to. Three bills were introduced on motion of V. W. Smith, Minister of Railways and Telephones.

The first of these will amend the Telephone and Telegraph Act to enable the employees to be brought under a contributory superannuation scheme, as in the rest of the civil service.

LACOMBE AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The second is the annual bill providing for any loss sustained in operation of the Lacombe and North Western Railway, and also providing for an additional two and four-tenths miles of construction to bring the terminus on to high ground beyond a valley in which the terminus now is situated. Mr. Brownlee announced that the Government were considering a request for further extensions from a delegation, who asked that the line be built to Edmonton, and that of this extension about 10 miles be built this year.

Another bill provides for a portion of cost of the extension of the A. and G. W. Railway made last year, Mr. Smith said the Government might consider extension of the line from Hanging Stone Creek to McMurray.

George Mills, Liberal (Athabasca), emphasized the importance of this construction, and also asked that the bridge constructed by the Public Works Department be improved.

The Premier estimated that in spite of the general demand of the Liberals for "cutting down" expenditure, they had already asked this session for public works which would cost all told from two to three million dollars.

The debate was adjourned by N. S. Smith, U. F. A. member for Olds.

Smith Challenges Bowen to Debate the Party System

N. S. Smith, R. C. Marshall and A. L. Sanders Speakers in Debate—Sanders Commends Liquor Act—Marshall Suspicious of Offer of Co-operation

FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 19.—Prompt repudiation by Premier Brownlee of an insinuation by R. C. Marshall, Liberal member for Calgary, the Hon. V. W. Smith, Minister of Railways, had held some conference at Ottawa unknown to the Premier, and an eloquent appeal by Hon. Irene Parby, Minister Without Portfolio, for the abandonment of the insincerities and triumphery wranglings of political party warfare and for co-operation and constructive discussion,

were features of the debate on the address today.

Nelson S. Smith, U. F. A. member for Olds, protested against the statement of J. C. Bowen that the practice of co-operation between groups as advocated by the U. F. A. would result in the "secession" of Alberta from the other Provinces of Confederation. A. L. Sanders, U. F. A. member for Stettler, who is one of the strongest prohibitionists in the Assembly, declared that after a lengthy visit to the United States he had come to the conclusion that the plan in operation in Alberta was closer to real prohibition than was that of the republic.

MILLION DOLLAR SAVINGS MADE SURPLUS POSSIBLE

Mr. Smith, who was the first speaker of the day, challenged Mr. Bowen to discuss the merits of the party system of Government in the Olds constituency. The member pointed out that while improved economic conditions had undoubtedly assisted the Government in balancing the budget, the Province would still be far from making revenue balance expenditure were in not for the fact that ordinary expenditure has been reduced by more than a million dollars.

Commending the good roads policy which is being carried out by the Government, Mr. Smith quoted a visitor to the Province who had declared that in no other place in North America had he known such great improvement in roads to be effected in a period of three years.

Mr. Haney's addresses on mixed farming had been productive of much good, said the member, but just as much had been accomplished by many of the specialists of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Smith also referred to the progress made by the Pools, and to the great benefits which must accrue to the producers through the adoption of co-operative marketing.

Speaking of the Spray Lakes project, the member for Olds said that he believed this enterprise could be developed in accordance with the principles of co-operative buying, and that if properly handled, the co-operative principle would be as successful in this as in other enterprises.

Mr. Smith declared that more people were coming into the Olds constituency than could be supplied with farms at the present time. He favored a well-organized, carefully considered colonization policy.

CONGRATULATES WHITE ON FINE SPEECH

R. C. Marshall, Liberal (Calgary), congratulated F. J. White, Labor member for Calgary, on his fine speech, particularly on the subject of Spray Lakes power, and hoped that the Government would see that this project was handled effectively. He criticized Mr. White's finding fault with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in reference to labor legislation.

Discussing the Medicine Hat by-election of last year, Mr. Marshall remarked that the Liberal batting average was 100, and that of the Government nil, and said the Government "was putting on a rather elaborate program to stem the tide which was turning against them." He saw no suggestion regarding mortgage legislation, and feared the Government was appealing more to labor than to the investing public, and that they were prejudiced in this respect.

The unemployed, said the member, had been raised to the dignity of being mentioned in the speech from the throne for the first time. He suggested sarcastically that Mr. Ross could have had nothing to do with this, as he had "told the unemployed where they got off at", and although when there was a Liberal regime Mr. Ross hadn't told the Government what they should do.

Mr. Ross: "That's a fine story."

Mr. Marshall said he had the greatest respect for the new Premier, and believed in his personal honesty, though he was a "good lawyer with a bad case." He was approaching the supreme court in an appeal to the people.

Premier Brownlee: "We are approaching that court with every confidence."

WILL INVITE THE CLOSEST SCRUTINY

Mr. Marshall said that he disapproved of the economic group organization for political purposes. When he declared that he had inquired about the surplus for 1925 at the Treasury Department, and had been unable to get detailed information, Mr. Brownlee replied that when the figures were asked for in the Assembly in the usual way they would be given, and added, "This is a legitimate surplus, and when the figures are brought in we will welcome the closest scrutiny."

Mr. Marshall said that the increased revenue of 1925 had largely been responsible for the improved position. He was informed by Mr. Brownlee that the surplus was brought about largely, but not entirely, by economies in expenditure.

A statement that there were 109 more civil servants in Alberta than formerly, excluding the telephone system, was denied by the Premier, who said he had statistics from the Civil Service Commissioner, and suggested that the member call the public accounts committee together to go into the matter. There had been not an increase but a reduction.

When Mr. Marshall insinuated that V. W. Smith had held some conference at Ottawa and taken some action unknown to the Premier, he called forth an immediate and emphatic denial.

"The Minister of Railways stayed in Ottawa with my full knowledge and consent, for a definite purpose, and this side of the House has nothing to apologize for," said the Premier.

Then the Calgary member asserted that A. A. McGillivray had been saying that "when he came into power" he would make Mr. Smith his Minister of Railways.

Mr. Smith: "I am not responsible for any statement made by an irresponsible gentleman. If he made such a statement, it was on his own authority. I have never seen the gentleman, would not know him if he walked in here, and I have never spoken to him." (Applause.)

Mr. Marshall remarked that he would rather see the U. F. A. Government continue in office than "a Tory Government with a Tory program."

Proceeding to attack the Government, Mr. Marshall said that the change of Premiers was due to the "scheming of hungry politicians hanging on to office", asserting that the U. F. A. caucus was "a menace to the Province", but that that "astute" Minister of Railways had appealed to the U. F. A. Convention for a mandate on the telephone question, over the heads of the caucus.

"DICTATOR" TRYING TO "PUT SOMETHING OVER"

Turning to discussion of President Wood's remarks when introducing Mr. Brownlee to the U. F. A. Convention, the Calgary member charged that Mr. Wood was trying to "put something over" the cities by inviting their co-operation in the task of carrying on Provincial affairs. Mr. Wood appeared to Mr. Marshall in the role of a "dictator". If any city member proved unacceptable to the Farmers and Labor he would be "chucked out".

Mr. Marshall was willing to have city representation cut down, so long as representation by population was provided for in redistribution. If this plan were not followed, there would be a real fight with the city representatives. He believed in the Pools, and hoped they would be kept out of politics. He suggested that the Liberals had forced the Government to balance its budget, by demanding economies.

SANDERS COMMENDS WEED ERADICATION POLICY

A. L. Sanders, U. F. A. (Stettler), expressed his approval of the action of the Department of Agriculture in carrying on a campaign for the control of weeds during the last two years. He believed that all weed seeds of no feed value should be destroyed at the elevators.

Referring to Mr. Bowen's remarks concerning the Pools, Mr. Sanders said that the U. F. A. had at all times tried to keep this question out of politics. Some persons had said that the press had brought about the Pools. Nothing but the spade work—the long campaign of education carried on by the U. F. A. could have made any Pool organization possible.

As to Mr. Bowen's criticism of the Government on the ground that they should have obtained control of the natural resources earlier, this, said the member for Stettler, came with poor grace from a political party which had been in power for sixteen years in Alberta, but had failed to obtain the resources.

KEEP LIQUOR ACT OUT OF POLITICS

Speaking of the demand of the prohibition forces for a plebiscite on the subject of beer halls at the next Provincial election, Mr. Sanders protested that the question of the Liquor Act should be kept out of politics. A survey of the Province would show that the present act was working in a fairly satisfactory way. He thought that the beer halls might eliminate themselves in time. "On a recent visit to the United States," he added, "I satisfied myself that the system we have here is really more prohibition than the prohibition across the line. In one city there I saw more people under the influence of liquor in fifteen minutes than I have seen in Edmonton in a week."

STAGE PLAY AT ACADIA

A play entitled "When Smith Steps Out" was put on very successfully by the Acadia U. F. A. Local, in the Acadia Community Hall recently, "with the intention of increasing our membership and reviving interest in the Local," writes the acting secretary, L. Jones. It is the intention of the Local, recently organized, to hold more social meetings and entertainments in the near future.

Position of Married Women With Respect to Property Rights Will Be Considered by Advisory Committee

Hon. Irene Parlby Makes Important Announcement in Legislative Assembly—In Eloquent Speech on Address, Minister Without Portfolio Discusses Record of Government and of U. F. A.—Farmers Becoming "Masters of Their Own Industry"

"I know the leader of the Opposition has a very difficult task. I believe when he is quite alone with his own inner self, he admits that this Government have done pretty good work, and that they really have achieved considerable success in their various undertakings, and in the manner they have handled finances. Unfortunately, as leader of the Opposition, he has to hide anything favorable he may think about the Government, as he expressed it, and 'talk to the country', in such a manner as to impress them with the supposed shortcomings."

Alluding to a portion of her speech which had been quoted by Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Parlby said, "May I express my appreciation of the fact that poor words of mine uttered so long ago as that Federal by-election in Medicine Hat, when Robert Gardiner was first elected to the House of Commons, should have been deemed worthy to be treasured in Liberal hearts, and to be repeated by the honorable leader on the floor of this House."

A CANDLE WHICH WILL NOT BE PUT OUT

"Of course that by-election was an important one in the history of the Province. If I may quote the words of a famous ecclesiastic, 'It lit a candle which will not easily be put out,' and whose light is shining at Ottawa today."

"That the late by-election in Medicine Hat was captured by the Liberal Party (and I would take this opportunity of congratulating the member on his return), does not mean any lessening of faith in the new political movement of Labor or Farmers. That movement cannot fail so long as it can command the loyal and unselfish voluntary work that has been given by its followers in the different campaigns they have waged."

GREAT FORWARD MOVEMENT IN POLITICAL THOUGHT

"I believe with the Premier, that we are witnessing today a great forward movement in political thought all over the world. I think the keynote of that movement was struck by the Labor member for Calgary (Mr. White), when he said, 'I am here to co-operate—not to oppose'; and I hope that at least some of the younger members of the House may live to see the time when the welfare of the people will be the sole consideration of Parliaments, and parties will be elected to co-operate to that end, rather than to spend their time seeking to oppose, misrepresent and embarrass any Government that may happen to be in power."

STILL SOME PREACHERS OF DOCTRINE OF HATE

"While there are still those who spread the doctrine of hate and struggle—the tooth and claw methods of the jungle—as a biological necessity which must hold sway in every phase of life, I believe that nature has a higher law which she also uses to achieve her own ends—and that law is co-operation. I believe that that is the law which is finally going to

In her speech in the debate on the address last week, Mrs. Parlby dealt with Government policy largely from the social standpoint—from the standpoint of the home-maker. She made her appeal for the support of U. F. A. principles on the highest of all grounds—the ethics and social idealism of the movement. She rejoiced that the rural people of this Province were becoming, more than ever in the past, "masters of their own fate and captains of their own destiny."

bring groups and nations together; which is going to shape the world and society. And I believe that those who fight against it, who ignore it, whether they be nations or political parties, are doomed to everlasting extinction.

"The attention of the Assembly has been drawn to the greatly increased value of agricultural production during the last year, and as a representative of one of the oldest and finest farming districts in the Province, I should like to add my

farm people is without question. They feel that with the development of their own marketing services they are, to a much greater extent than ever before, masters of their own fate and captains of their own industry.

"Most of us, I am sure, were struck with the remark of the member for Calgary (Mr. White), when he said that the agricultural industry should help to carry the burden of unemployment caused by its own operations. I hope the time is coming when well balanced and better organized farming will enable it to do so, at least to a much greater extent than it does today."

"The Province in its short life has passed or is passing through the various economic phases of every new agricultural country. First of all the pastoral stage, with large areas of land held for grazing of great herds of cattle and horses. That stage has passed, and has been succeeded by the second phase of extensive agriculture—large grain farms, where mile after mile of golden grain calls for vast armies of workers at certain seasons of the year."

"That stage is also passing slowly, and before long I think we shall see in the greater part of this Province smaller farms with their full complement of stock—horses, milk cows, sheep, hogs and poultry,—producing an income every day of the year, employing the necessary labor the year round, and establishing agriculture on a permanent basis; above all building up the type of homes which after all are the real foundation of any country's prosperity."

HELP FOR THE INCOMING SETTLERS

"Connected quite closely with agriculture is the question of colonization. Every indication points to a large influx of people into this Province within the next few years. It should be a matter of the greatest concern to us all, that these people who come to us should be helped to make good, and guided to parts of the Province where they will rightly fit in. This will need the closest co-operation between all groups of people, between urban and rural organizations."

Mrs. Parlby suggested the formation of Women's Immigration Committees, whose function should be to welcome newcomers, and assist them in adjusting themselves to the new conditions. They would be "District Builders," performing one of the finest of public services. They should aim to protect the newcomers from exploitation."

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY BILL

Speaking of the Community of Property Bill, introduced a year ago solely for the purpose of laying its provisions before the community for study, Mrs. Parlby said that the bill had been much discussed and that during the year much had been learned. The bill would not be presented in its original form, but a small advisory committee would be appointed by the Government to make



HON. IRENE PARLBY

word of rejoicing that various signs tend to show that the difficult times through which the farming population has been passing is now at an end, and that with a greater demand for our products owing to a gradually increasing population at home and the development of new markets abroad, the industry is at the beginning of a time of prosperity which will do much to compensate for the trials and difficulties of the past few years.

FARMERS BECOMING MASTERS OF THEIR OWN FATE

"That the development of co-operative marketing has played a very large part in bringing about a renewed feeling of hope and optimism in the hearts of the

recommendations for the improvement of the position of married women in respect to property rights.

"The Honorable Leader of the Opposition and others, have felt called upon to criticize the Department of Education," said Mrs. Parby, continuing. "I do not want to repeat anything the Minister of Education has said, but I am sure he showed how unfounded that criticism was. I would like to emphasize the fact that there never has been a more healthy demand for educational services, and I think I am right in stating that a greater percentage of the children are passing through the eighth grade and going on to the High School grades than ever before.

"Again, with regard to health, this Government may not have been standing continually upon the house tops and blowing its own trumpet, but I think all fair-minded people will agree that its record in public health matters has been both courageous and progressive.

"To begin with, the people in the outlying districts where the need is greatest on account of there being no resident medical men have been given invaluable service through the travelling clinic, and through the increased number of district nurses.

GIVE FULL CREDIT WHERE CREDIT DUE

"I noticed the opposition leader took some pride in the fact that the Liberal administration inaugurated the legislation providing for municipal hospitals and district nurses, and I would not wish to be so ungenerous as to withhold from them full credit for that. I feel, however, that credit should be given also the originators of these constructive measures.

"Perhaps to none is so much credit due with regard to the municipal hospital scheme as the member for Peace River (Mr. Greenfield.) It was to his knowledge of rural conditions, his warm sympathy with the suffering, and his persistent and unselfish educational work, that the scheme owes its origin and success.

"With regard to the district nurses (and although they are all grouped under the name of 'public health nurse,' I hope the Honorable Leader of the Opposition knows the different work the district nurses do from that of the other branch of the public health nurses), the plan for these nurses to have special training in obstetrical work that they might be placed in portions of the Province where there was no medical man, was originated after considerable study by the U. F. W. A. This was admitted by the late Hon. A. G. McKay in a public speech, and while all honor is due to that Minister for having the courage in the face of considerable opposition, to go forward with the project, I must claim some credit also for those who originated the idea.

HEALTH POLICIES PROGRESSIVE AND EFFECTIVE

"With regard to the other public health nurses, while it is true that financial conditions forced this Government at one time to reduce the number, its offer to the municipalities to go fifty-fifty with them to provide a nurse still stands, and has in some instances been taken advantage of. Had sufficient educational work been undertaken through the country from the time the public health scheme was inaugurated, I believe that many more if not all the staff would have been taken care of at that time. The valuable work these nurses are doing is well known, and it is pleasing to note that it was a Provincial clinic

baby that won the first prize for the finest Empire baby, and also the second prize. I know that when the Minister of Health speaks he will be able to show that the health policies of the Province have been both progressive and effective.

"I dislike very much anything that savors of boastfulness, but I believe that in the judgment of all people in this Province whose minds are not clouded by extreme partisanship, this Province has had at no time since its inception such efficient and businesslike administration or such sincere consideration of the many serious problems its people have had to face." (Prolonged applause.)

PROVINCIAL SURPLUS OF \$188,019 IN 1925 ANNOUNCED BY PREMIER (Continued from page 1)

from Alex. Ross, the representative of Labor, who had been "of tremendous assistance", particularly in dealing with problems of a sociological character. So far as this Government is concerned, Mr. Brownlee declared, one of its greatest efforts will be to overcome the tendency which the party system has engendered, to place party politics above the general interests of the citizens. He quoted Lord Bryce, one of the most famous of British constitutional authorities, to the effect that there is being witnessed in the world today a change in the manner in which the people obtain representation, and that further change is coming. Premier Brownlee said that those who took their stand against new forms of representation, against, for instance, the representation of Labor as a distinct group, were no wiser than King Canute of old, who commanded the rising tide to halt.

MITCHELL SUBSIDES WHEN AUTHORITY GIVEN

When Mr. Brownlee first took up the discussion of the Provincial finances, he was several times questioned in a challenging way by Mr. Mitchell. The Premier replied briefly, quoting the authority of the Provincial auditor, and the Opposition leader subsided, and there was practically no interruption during the remainder of the speech.

In opening, the Premier associated himself with previous speakers in expressing regret at the death of the Queen Mother, and he congratulated the mover and seconder of the address. Congratulations were extended to Lieutenant-Governor Egbert on his appointment. With him the Government would seek to work in closest co-operation. Mr. Brownlee also welcomed the new member for Medicine Hat, C. S. Pingle, whose experience should be of value in the Assembly.

"I would like to welcome him also," said the Premier, "because he is a man of courage, particularly as during the Medicine Hat by-election we find that he made a number of explanations that we, on this side of the House, have waited in vain for four years to hear from the lips of those sitting in the Opposition, and particularly those who represented the former administration, and I am going to ask the member if he would take the time to repeat to the House the explanations he made during that election on such things as the telephone question, the position in the Land Titles office occupied, or supposed to be occupied, by W. Campbell, and on such questions as liquor purchases. I am quite sure that the Minister of Railways will be particularly interested to hear his explanations."

Premier Brownlee said that F. W.

White, Labor member for Calgary, in both last session and this had given a notable example in the Assembly of the way to be constructive and at the same time critical. The Government appreciated constructive criticism. Mr. Brownlee took exception to Mr. White's remarks with reference to the appointment of the King's Printer. The qualifications of the man appointed as acting King's Printer (he would have to prove himself), had been carefully gone into. Moreover the Civil Service Association stood for promotion within the service, when qualifications were good, and the Government sought to carry out this policy.

DO NOT EXPECT CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

Proceeding, Mr. Brownlee said:

Now I approach the speech of the honorable Leader of the Opposition, to which we listened yesterday, and I find today that I approach that speech with a little difficulty, my difficulty being to determine just how seriously I should take some of the things he said. I appreciate the difficulty of the position of the Leader of the Opposition today because I presume it is not a comfortable position to find oneself in, to realize that the party which he represents is crying so loudly to those who represent our movement in the Federal House for assistance and support in their present trying position and at the same time to have to attack that organization severely in another House. Let me relieve his anxiety at once by saying that so far as we are concerned we do not expect any change in his attitude on that count, and we hope he will find himself able to criticize wherever he thinks criticism is necessary and he will not disturb our feelings in the least.

Inasmuch as the Leader of the Opposition took the time of this House to review over a period of four and a half years the failings of the present administration, it fits in with my own line of thought to follow his review of those four and a half years, and I can possibly intimate those things which I think we have done, by touching upon the instances where he quoted the things which he claimed we had not done.

First of all I am going to take up the question of that area in the Province which is sometimes called the dry area, and to answer the criticism of the honorable member that we had completely overlooked this part of the Province, and that we did not try to adopt any policy for the relief of that area. I agree with him in what he said at the beginning of his remarks that this was a problem calling for the highest degree of ability, and may I say also that I think it is a problem which should be faced with a complete absence of partisanship.

We have eliminated party differences in connection with the natural resources problem of this Province, but surely the reconstruction of this great area, at least potentially great in the South-eastern part of this Province, and the plight of the people who live in that area, are just as important to the life of this Province as a satisfactory settlement of the natural resources question, and if we can eliminate party differences and party spirit in dealing with the one question I do not see why we cannot and should not eliminate that spirit in dealing with the other. Still, the Medicine Hat by-election was fought by the Opposition largely on the charge that we had ignored the problem in the south-eastern part of this Province and that, notwithstand-

ing the fact that it is the problem that first engaged the attention of the present administration after taking office in 1921, and has been with us constantly since that date and is the problem that is still our first concern.

I stated that I had before me certain copies of the Medicine Hat News. I find in one editorial, for example, this:

"The Greenfield Administration, as Medicine Hat farmers well know, has refused to continue the Liberal policy of seed grain advances, and thereby greatly imperilled the position of the farmers in this district. This circumstance makes a poor showing when compared to an amount of almost three million dollars devoted to this purpose by the Liberals.

"Just across the border in Saskatchewan, all along the dividing line, the Liberal Government in that Province still continues the policy of Seed Grain Relief, as formerly given by the Alberta Liberal Government, while all that the Greenfield Government will vouchsafe is a one-way ticket to some other location—rather a poor alternative for a farmer to accept in lieu of his farm buildings, to say nothing of his years of labor."

QUERIES MITCHELL ON SEED GRAIN RELIEF

This is but an example of the propaganda carried on prior to the Medicine Hat election, and I find that we were constantly criticised and condemned because we had terminated the policy of seed grain relief which the former administration had inaugurated and carried on up to the time they ceased to hold office in 1921. I stated on the platform in Medicine Hat that I did not believe that these articles in the Medicine Hat paper correctly interpreted the views of the honorable Leader of the Opposition himself, and I am going to ask the Leader of the Opposition today, if on the floor of this House, to the people of this Province, he is prepared to say that he thinks it was a mistake when we terminated the policy of seed grain relief in Medicine Hat and other parts of the Province. I would like the honorable gentleman to say.

Mr. Mitchell: I'll answer the question, but if I intervene on one subject during the address of the Premier, I should be allowed to do so on others. I have my own views of the matter, and I am not here to repudiate or support the views of the Medicine Hat News.

Mr. Brownlee: If that is the only answer of the honorable Leader of the Opposition today I am quite satisfied, but I want the members of this House to know that I have raised this question and that is the only answer I have obtained, and I say I do not believe that these articles correctly represent the views of the Leader of the Opposition and I do not believe he can or will go during the next election into the various constituencies of the Province and condemn the present administration because we discontinued that policy of seed grain relief. If there is one thing which I deprecate in our political life today it is the tendency to go into isolated parts of this Province and make statements that could not be made openly to the people of the Province.

Mr. Mitchell: I made no reference to seed grain relief during the Medicine Hat campaign.

Mr. Brownlee: Will the honorable member for Medicine Hat state to this House today that he did not at any time during the Medicine Hat election charge this Government of being mistaken in cancelling this policy of seed grain relief?

Mr. Pingle: At no time on the platform did I make any such statement in

regard to seed grain during the election.

Mr. Brownlee: Will the honorable member then say whether he approves or disapproves the policy of discontinuing the grant of seed grain and relief?

Mr. Pingle: I will state my views later, in this House.

Mr. Brownlee: I am inviting the honorable member to state his position on this important question of seed grain and relief because it happens that in the next few months we will be fighting another election in this Province and the people of the Province generally are entitled to know his views. (U. F. A. Applause.)

There will be no distributions of seed grain by this Government. I do not hesitate at all to say that when we discontinued the policy of seed grain and relief after 1922, we believe we were wise in doing it and when we go into Medicine Hat during the next election we will state we did so and we will also state that the members of the Liberal Party could not get up in this House and say we were wrong in doing so, and because I wish to be able to say that, or the reverse, I am taking this opportunity of again inviting the honorable member to state his views definitely on what I consider to be one of the most important questions in that particular district of the Province.

Now the Leader of the Opposition says that with respect to the south-eastern part of this Province we have done nothing, and when challenged by my friend who sits to the right of me (Mr. Hoadley) as to why prior to 1921, the Government of which he was a prominent member, had inaugurated no policy other than the wide distribution of seed grain and relief, his reply was that conditions were not as bad then as in 1921 and the following years. That is his justification for not having inaugurated any policy prior to 1921. It is true that later, when he had to justify certain financial expenditures of the same administration, he admitted that from 1917 to 1921 there had been a series of very dry years, and I would think that four consecutive dry years would have been sufficient to bring this problem very acutely to the attention of that administration. It was brought to the attention of that administration and the only policy that could be inaugurated was one of the distribution of seed grain and relief.

FIRST TASK TO GRAPPLE WITH DRY AREA PROBLEM

The first thing this Government did was to grapple with the problem of the south-eastern part of this Province. We proceeded first by the appointment of the Southern Alberta Survey Board, and I was very pleased to note the very favorable comment of the Leader of the Opposition on the personnel of that Board. It consisted of a group of men who stand very high in the esteem of the Province and who had a great interest in the problems of that part of the Province. In due course the Board made its report and I have the report of the Board before me, the report of the Survey Board for Southern Alberta.

The Leader of the Opposition says we obtained this report and we immediately proceeded to forget it, and we have not carried out the policies advocated in it. I find the recommendations of the Board are summarized in three pages at the conclusion of the report. The honorable Leader of the Opposition singles out two lines on the third page: "The consideration of tax enforcement procedure in cases where a tax sale is unlikely to bring

forward any purchasers." He singled out these two lines and because he thought we had not followed this recommendation he concluded that we had forgotten the report of the Southern Alberta Survey Board. If the honorable Leader of the Opposition thinks this, well then it is because he is not familiar with the statutes of this Province, and it is also because he has not been a close observer of what has taken place in this House during the four years we have held office.

PRACTICALLY EVERY RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED

I find that in the three pages of their recommendations they recommend thirteen different things and that they follow these by a few general recommendations. I can go into these recommendations one by one and show that practically all of the recommendations have been followed, some in the form of statutes, some by administrative measures. Some refer to the Dominion Government and some to the Provincial, but I believe that by far the major part of the recommendations of the Southern Alberta Survey Board are being carried into effect today by the Provincial or Dominion Governments according to their respective jurisdictions.

The first recommendation is "That the Government of Alberta should institute and complete financial arrangements, based upon the plans instituted and carried out in former years, for the guaranteeing of advances of moneys in necessitous cases for the purchase of seed grain for the crop of 1922, subject to certain terms and conditions subsequently set out.

One of the reasons for this recommendation was that the time had advanced towards seeding and it was felt that something had to be done for 1922. May I say that we complied with that recommendation of the Southern Alberta Survey Board to the letter and we gave seed grain and relief for 1922 on the conditions set out and the difference between the policy carried out that year and the policy of former years was the difference between an orderly and methodical system and no system at all.

THE DROUGHT RELIEF ACT

Now I will go on to the second recommendation:—

That before entering into and completing these arrangements, the Government should receive adequate assurance that, in the event of a crop being raised by reason of the means that would be provided by the adopting of the plans as outlined above, or such similar plans as may be decided upon by the Government, the creditors of farmers generally shall agree to refrain from embarrassing diligent farmers and their municipal and school organizations; and that creditors shall, in particular, agree that the advances for seed and feed shall be a first charge on the crop; and that the farmers may then reserve from the crop and from the proceeds of the crop, both seed and feed, sufficient to carry their operations till the next following year's harvest, and sufficient means for the maintenance of the farmers and their families.

If such adequate assurances are not forthcoming, the Board recommends that such legislative enactments should be effected as may be deemed requisite to provide the very necessary protection indicated, a protection that is necessary, not only for the farmer himself, but for the continuing welfare of his creditors.

That was the second recommendation, and an important one, and it was discussed with the members of the Survey Board at different times. The result was the preparation of what is known as the Drought Area Relief Act. The title may

not be acceptable to all people and it may be that the terms of that Act are not acceptable to all people. The act contemplated voluntary action and voluntary action only, but it also provided that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council could go further and bring in certain restrictive measures by Order-in-Council.

This Government made every effort to carry that Act through without having to invoke that part of the Act which brought in restrictive measures. The majority of the creditors were willing to work with us, but it happened that there were three or four creditors whose actions were such as to cause the representatives of other creditors to say to us, either you must invoke the other part of the Act and restrict these few creditors from taking action or we will have to take action also to share with them in the crop this year.

WOULD FAIL IN EXACTLY SAME WAY

We were forced to do so by a few creditors, and I want to say that with the experience which we have had in the administration of the affairs of this Province, having watched the development of that area and having seen something of what the farmers in that area had to pass through I believe as one who had something to do with the framing of the Drought Area Relief Act, that if we were faced with the same situation again with the greater information which we now have at our disposal we would face it in very much the same way as we faced it in 1921. It was necessary to give the farmers a chance; it was necessary to give them one year's start.

KEPT MANY A MAN ON LAND

We knew there were certain farmers who would take advantage of the legislation. You cannot pass legislation that someone will not take advantage of. But we passed it just the same. Some did take advantage of it.

We had to shape that legislation in the interests of the many and not in the interests of the few. And by reason of that legislation I firmly believe many a man is on the land in South-eastern Alberta today who would not have been there if it had not been for the restrictions put upon creditors in that one year, 1922. That legislation remained for only one year, and having given the farmers one year's start in that area we modified the act until it took the form of the present Debt Adjustment Act.

DEBT ADJUSTMENT WORK EXTENDED

The work of the Debt Adjustment Act has been carried on since, and I may say that it is now being very greatly extended in this particular area, because when all is said and done you cannot expect the man in that area or any part of the Province to stay on the land and develop it if for reasons beyond his control, assuming that he is a bona fide man, he has become so encumbered with debt that he cannot work himself out in ten years or twenty years, or possibly a life time. When all is said and done you can encourage the production of diversified crops, you can encourage this scheme or that scheme, but you cannot avoid the personal equation. You have to go into that district and assist some of these men to work themselves out of debts incurred during a number of disastrous years. That is the work the Debt Adjustment Act is now carrying on in that district.

PROVISION TO BE MADE FOR COMMUNITY PASTURE

Another recommendation of the Southern Alberta Survey Board was that provision should be made for community pasture, and I have in my hand here a copy of the act which I will be glad to place before the honorable Leader if he has not seen it, providing for community grazing. I am not going to take the time to go over one by one a comparison of the recommendations made with the action taken by the Government. The honorable Minister of Agriculture, who will follow some time later in this debate, I am quite sure is prepared to give more extensive information if so desired, on the work which is being done in order to encourage the people there.

NO APOLOGY FOR MOVING SETTLERS

There was some criticism during the Medicine Hat election of our policy of moving settlers. We make no apology for that policy. There were a number of men who wished to move out, to some place where conditions appeared more encouraging. We gave them assistance and I believe my honorable friend the Minister of Agriculture will be able to satisfy this House, if it so desires, that the majority of those men who were moved are making a success in the homes which they have now founded.

The Department of Agriculture has done what it could along the lines of diversified farming. At the present time, with the assistance of the two trans-continental railways, a forage crop train is operating through this area to further encourage the farmers to grow forage crops.

The Equalization Assessments Board is making a very substantial reduction in the assessments on the land in that district.

JOINT BOARD TO STUDY CONDITIONS

Recently, with the assistance of the Dominion Government, a joint Board has been formed to study conditions in a typical dry area. That Board has already had two or three meetings. It represents both the Dominion and Provincial Governments. The members of the Board are making an intensive study to see to what extent they can work out the problems of the farmer there; the adjustment of his debts along with the adjustment of his holdings. It may be necessary for an exchange of holdings to provide pasture facilities. At this Session we propose to introduce legislation to provide for a modification of taxes on grazing leases in that district.

Mr. Mitchell interjected that the Government had "said that two years ago."

LETHBRIDGE NORTHERN IRRIGATION PROJECT

Mr. Brownlee: The honorable gentleman is mistaken. When you come to deal with the Southern area of this Province there is another problem peculiar to it and that is the Irrigation Problem. That is a problem that at present very greatly engages the attention of this Government, because the Province has 5½ million dollars of public money invested in our enterprise, the Lethbridge Northern project. When we took office we found it was just in its formative stage; the bonds guaranteed, the work completed, and a few settlers were on the land, but it soon became apparent that conditions were not right for the success of the project. It became a very great question as to whether the settlers could continue to

work these farms with such a heavy capital charge as \$55 an acre against them.

This Government has been criticized by the Calgary Herald because we did not at an earlier date undertake the reconstruction of the Lethbridge Northern problem. I have replied that my conviction is that things had to work themselves out to a certain state before the Government could step in. I have stated on public platforms that there were three parties involved in the Lethbridge Northern project,—the Government on the one side; the man on the enterprise as the party of the second part; and there was a group of creditors of that man standing off to one side as the parties of the third part, and it would not be possible to work out the project satisfactorily until such time as all of these parties could be brought to share to some extent in the responsibilities that had to be undertaken.

EVENTS PROVED CONTENTION RIGHT

I think that developments during the last year have proved my contention to be right, and while we are able to say that the Lethbridge Northern Colonization Act passed at the last Session, has been a great success, the fact remains that we have still very great problems in the district with the large land owners and with the creditors, all of which proves that we had to wait until a certain spirit had developed among the people before we could have successfully undertaken the work which we undertook this last year. We appointed a manager, that manager has been at work for part of the year. His first annual report is before this Legislature. It shows that the total number of home places now registered is 377; it shows that the total number of new settlers is 138, and before that act was passed we were having people leave the project. One of the first solutions of the project suggested was the bringing in of settlers. We tried that for the first two years and sent to Europe for immigrants to be placed on the project. They soon left because they felt that they could not succeed with the burden they had to face in the high capitalization of that land.

Now we have the result of the study which we gave to the Lethbridge Northern project, the advice of which Dr. Widstoe so ably gave us last year, that advice subsequently being put in the form of legislation in the shape of the Lethbridge Northern Colonization Act. We have 138 new settlers on the project inside of the first year of the Act's operation. We find that the agricultural products increased this year over last year by over half a million dollars. It is significant that in 1925 we only had 14,000 acres of dry land cropped as against 26,000 the year before.

BETTER THAN IMMIGRATION PROPAGANDA

These figures are significant, they are significant because they show that not only are we having this area colonized, but we are succeeding in getting the man on that project to realize the advantages of irrigation. This year 12,000 less dry acres on the Lethbridge Northern were cropped than last year, and yet the total number of acres cropped this year was over 52,000 acres as compared with 48,000 last year. And, Mr. Speaker, it is pleasing to note that the cost of administration of that act for the period of the greater part of the year has only been \$10,000. We have 14,537 irrigable acres

colonized this last year through the efforts of the manager, and that only with an expenditure of \$16,999, and I say that is good colonization work. And if throughout the history of Canada, particularly during the last four or five years, we had as good returns for the outlay of money spent by the Government of Canada on immigration in the Dominion of Canada as we have had for this \$16,000 in the Lethbridge Northern, Canada would be in a much better position than it is now.

TEST OF ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY TO ADMINISTER

The test of administration, said the Premier continuing, was capacity to administer. Here, then, in the Lethbridge Northern irrigation undertaking, was an administrative task of large proportions upon which the Government had embarked successfully.

Mr. Mitchell: "I did not criticise that."

CANADA LAND AND IRRIGATION UNDERTAKING

The Canada Land and Irrigation Company's project would prove as difficult a problem as the Lethbridge Northern, though the capital charge was not as high. This project up till now had been a problem of the Dominion Government, but the Province would have to take it over with the Natural Resources. This was another project that was not being developed as it should be. The information obtained in the development of the Lethbridge Northern could be turned to account in the development of the Canada Land and Irrigation project.

Answering a question regarding the part taken by the Lethbridge Herald in the development of the Lethbridge Northern, the Premier said that if the Liberals generally would co-operate as well as Senator Buchanan had done in this instance the problems of the Province would be greatly simplified.

For himself, he had never failed to have an abiding faith in the prosperity of Southern Alberta. It would ultimately be one of the best sections of Alberta.

DIRECT LEGISLATION ACT STILL EFFECTIVE

Dealing with the charge of the Leader of the Opposition that the Government had destroyed the effectiveness of the Direct Legislation Act, the Premier stated that the Act was still operative, and could be brought into operation any time that the people wanted it brought into operation. The Government were justified in making the changes in the act, allowing the electors four alternative questions. If these alterations had not been made in the Act, the people would not have had an opportunity of signifying their desires in the way of liquor administration, and there would be as much trouble today as there was prior to the present Liquor Act coming into force.

The Leader of the Opposition had not had a word of criticism for the administration of the present Liquor Act. The test of a Government was to bring legislation into effect and to administer it successfully and on this test the present Government stood justified in the policy which had been followed in placing liquor control for the first time in Canada under one man. Two other Provinces had since followed Alberta's example.

In answer to Mr. Mitchell, who asked how much notice the Government would give of the coming election. Mr. Brownlee said: "Just as much—and more—than you gave the people in 1921." Then in

answer to Mr. Marshall, who asked why the Government did not go ahead last fall, and hold an election then, the Premier added amid laughter, "One of the reasons was that we thought Mr. Fisher was not ready."

Mr. Brownlee produced a large political advertisement issued by the Liberal Party and setting forth Liberal principles, carrying in a prominent position the photograph, not of Mr. Mitchell, but of Mr. Fisher the paid Liberal organizer. From this the Premier had gathered, he said humorously, that possibly Mr. Fisher was going to be the next Liberal leader.

GOVERNMENT HAD PRACTISED ECONOMY

The Leader of the Opposition took pride in the achievements of the previous administration. He would remind him, however, that the Province had no bonded debt prior to 1910, and the total debt to 1921 had been created in 11 years.

The Opposition leader here interposed that there was a considerable floating debt in 1910, and went on to comment on statements made by Mr. McGillivray throughout the country, to which the Premier banteringly rejoined, "Who is Mr. McGillivray?" Mr. Mitchell came back with the statement that the Premier ought to know, as the Government had employed him often enough, to which Mr. Brownlee commented that at any rate Mr. Mitchell would agree that Mr. McGillivray "was a good man to have working for you."

ONE ITEM WOULD ACCOUNT FOR INCREASE

The capital debt of the Province was increased by the Liberals \$16,000,000 in 1921, involving annual additional debt charges of \$866,000. If, as the Opposition Leader had stated, the total increased expenditure was only \$700,000 from 1921 to the present date, that one item alone would account for the increase.

Mr. Mitchell rose to his feet again and stated that at five per cent. the total interest would only be \$800,000, and also that out of the \$16,000,000, \$4,000,000 went into telephones, which carried their own interest charges, so that the increase in interest was \$200,000 less than the Premier claimed.

The Premier rejoined that the figures given were those of the Provincial Auditor. The debt was \$2,000,000 more than Mr. Mitchell stated and the interest rate was 6 per cent. not 5.

Mr. Mitchell made no further comments on this explanation.

After commenting on the necessity the Government had felt during the time when the country was passing through a period of economic distress of maintaining the morale of the people, the Premier said that that period was now definitely behind us. The Province would have lost far more if essential services had been drastically cut down, than it could lose by following the policy which the Government had followed, even though it had not been possible immediately to turn a deficit into a surplus. It was the custom of business concerns, such as grain companies, to maintain services year after year at a loss during difficult periods, rather than to give up those services. This was good private business, as the Government's policy had been good public business.

CHEERS GREET ANNOUNCEMENT OF SURPLUS

Then, amid cheers from the members, came the announcement that the public

accounts for 1925 showed a surplus of 188,019, the second largest in the history of the Province. This announcement had been kept a close secret up till the time the Premier had mentioned it in the Assembly, and was thus as unexpected as it was pleasant.

The Opposition Leader rose to his feet to ask if that included the telephones.

Premier Brownlee answered that the deficit on the telephones was \$8,000 as compared with \$110,000 the previous year.

If the books had been kept on the same basis as they were during the former administration, the surplus would have been shown as \$288,000.

Hon. C. R. Mitchell: Is there a possibility of taking into account everything earned but not collected.

Premier Brownlee: No, sir.

Proceeding, the Premier controverted the statement of the Opposition Leader that the Government had economized by cutting into essential services, such as health and education. It would be a bad day in the history of the Province when any Government would reduce the facilities for education, especially primary education, and that charge could not be laid at the door of the present administration.

PECULIAR STATE OF AFFAIRS

"It is a peculiar state of affairs," said Mr. Brownlee, "when in one breath we are criticised by the opposition for not cutting down expenditures more than they have been cut down, and in the next breath we are condemned because we have not spent more."

Then the Premier asked whether he was correct in stating that Mr. Mitchell had charged that the Government was spending \$225,000 less on education than in 1921.

"Oh, I guess so," replied the opposition leader.

Mr. Brownlee then proceeded to indicate that there had been no such reduction, in fact.

He repudiated the inference of his honorable friend that the Government intended to introduce an educational tax act. As a matter of deliberate policy they were approaching the subject in an entirely different way. The Government would not, as Liberals had suggested, put through the three mill tax after the election.

MORTGAGE COMPANIES HAVE LITTLE COMPLAINT

The mortgage companies had little to complain of, as the amendments they had suggested to him showed. It was not legislation that had troubled the loan companies, but economic conditions. Conditions for mortgage companies had improved in the past four years.

The companies were not greatly worried about the personal covenant, as had been alleged. In any case, the Government did not intend to allow themselves to be guided altogether by the companies' wishes, but by the welfare of the people as a whole.

The companies objected to the incidence of the Hail Insurance tax. If the removal of the priority which they sought were granted, however, it would go a long way to destroy the usefulness of the Municipal Hail Insurance scheme.

The companies also objected to the wild lands tax. The Provincial Treasurer intended to make some adjustments in reference to this tax. They objected to the priorities which existed under the

Alberta Co-operative Credit Act, one of the outstanding reforms of the previous regime.

ALBERTA ON EVE OF FORWARD MOVEMENT

"We should recognize the greatly improved economic position of this Province. We have previously in Alberta been going through a state of depression. Today we stand on the eve of a great forward movement in the Province."

The value of agricultural products in 1925, continued the Premier, was \$254,000,000. The coal production was increasing, and he was greatly encouraged by the oil reports.

Answering a question, he said that the \$112,000 which was Alberta's share of the 1919 Wheat Board surplus had been received from the Dominion Government, but was not included in the 1925 revenues.

Owing to the peculiar political position at Ottawa, said Mr. Brownlee, the Western members had been able to get assurance of legislation for an agricultural farm loans scheme, which he hoped to see go through the Dominion House. The Alberta Government had had a strong commission inquiring into the subject, and wished to co-operate with the Dominion Government in initiating a workable scheme.

The Government had been active in promoting and extending markets for Alberta's agricultural produce and minerals. There was a tremendous demand for Alberta coal in Ontario, and they were fighting for a favorable freight rate.

SANE COLONIZATION POLICY NEEDED

"I wish we could do away with the word immigration, and substitute colonization," said the Premier. "One of the reasons for our tremendous load of debt has been the immigration policy of the Dominion of Canada. We do not want the same conditions as prevailed in 1910. The prosperity of Alberta is going to attract many people to the Province in the next two years. Now is the time for the proper regulation of colonization, not for the opening of the floodgates. I wish to repudiate those irresponsible persons who state that this Government is not in favor of immigration."

CO-OPERATION WITH INDUSTRY

He was hopeful that at an early date we would have control of our mines and minerals, and desired to see established a policy of greater co-ordination between Government and industry. The people should exercise control of the development of coal, oil, and other natural products but the terms of control of these resources should be arrived at by agreement.

Dealing with other matters, the Premier said the sinking fund should be built up, and that the problem of the northern railways might be settled by setting aside enough of the natural resources in the great productive country served by these railways to meet the obligations incurred.

Expenses of tax collection should be eliminated as far as possible, but he would not for one moment subscribe to the suggestion made by the leader of the opposition that we should alter the system of taxation in the south-eastern districts of the Province. Any distinction in taxation by giving one district special treatment would be striking at

the foundations of representative government.

CITY AND COUNTRY SHOULD CO-OPERATE

The Premier, in an eloquent peroration, urged closer co-operation and unity between rural and urban sections of the country. The interests of city and country were one, and it was a great pity that there had been diversity. He instanced the report of a speech from the Vegreville Observer, in which the speaker stated that the U. F. A. was a class movement, as an example of the spirit they were trying to avoid. The U. F. A. was animated by a desire to co-operate with those who were trying to do the same as themselves. "We have been able to co-operate with other interests," he stated, instancing Hon. Alex. Ross on the Treasury bench.

Discussions at Wheat Conference Highly Profitable

St. Paul Conference Considers Co-operation and Coordination of Work of Various Pools

"While no attempt was made to change the organization form of the various Wheat Pools, or the organizational relationship between them, a very profitable discussion took place on the subject of co-operation between the Pools and co-ordination in a general way," said President H. W. Wood on his return to Calgary from the Wheat Pool Conference which opened in St. Paul, Minn., on February 16th. President Wood, C. Jensen, Ben Plumer, Lew Hutchinson and R. A. MacPherson were the representatives of the Alberta Pool at the Conference.

The three Western Canadian Pools, two Australian Pools, and most of the Pools of the United States were represented. It was decided to hold another meeting next year, and permanent officers of the Wheat Pool Conference were elected, Mr. Chas. Burnell of Manitoba being president.

Following the conference, President Wood addressed a meeting of several hundred persons at Aberdeen, S. Dakota, under the auspices of the Wheat Pool of that State. The Pool in S. Dakota seems to be getting along nicely, said Mr. Wood, and is very hopeful of future prospects. The members of the State Pool were greatly interested in the progress made in Western Canada, which they consider to have been a remarkable achievement.

TO ORGANIZE GLEICHEN RIDING

A convention of all Locals in the Gleichen Provincial constituency will be held in the G. W. V. A. Hall, Calgary, on Saturday, March 6th, commencing at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of the convention, which is called by Harvey Hanson, Director for Bow River, is to organize a Provincial Constituency Association.

MOYERTON GAINS STRENGTH

"It speaks well for Moyerton Local," writes the secretary, John D. Gaunt, "as well as for the efficacy of good effectual organization, that this Local is probably in a stronger position today than it has been for some time." The annual meeting, held recently, was very well attended and enthusiastic.

JUMPED FROM 8 TO 37

Sending in dues to Central Office for 37 members, the secretary of Bawlf Local, Mrs. Mary McArthur, writes that "our membership has jumped from 8 last year to 37."

PINCHER CREEK CO-OP. WAREHOUSE

The new Brocket warehouse of the Pincher Creek Co-operative Association, with a capacity of one hundred tons, has been completed. Another warehouse, planned to hold 500 tons, is in course of construction at Pincher station.

FOR A GREAT 1926!

"I am highly pleased with the Convention results," writes D. A. McDougall, of Wainwright Local, "plenty of gas—brakes working—lights on—all in good order for a great 1926. Hurrah for Wood!"

NEW LOCAL BON ACCORD DISTRICT

Willow Springs Local, in the Bon Accord district, was organized recently with ten paid-up members. Harry Peters is the secretary.

MRS. SCHOLEFIELD CONVENER OF MARKETING

Mrs. H. E. G. H. Scholefield's name as convener of Marketing was omitted from the list of U. F. W. A. conveners which appeared in the February 1st issue of "The U. F. A." Mrs. Scholefield was reappointed convener of Marketing at the U. F. W. A. Board meeting of January 23rd, and as such will prepare the March U. F. W. A. Bulletin on Marketing.

CANVASS FOR POULTRY POOL

Members of Ranfurly U. F. W. A. Local all joined the Egg Pool, and a canvass was made in the surrounding district. A series of whist drives held during the winter brought in enough revenue to advance Central Office dues, which were later repaid by the members.

The Problem of Seed Grain Vitality

By G. M. STEWART

Inspector, Dominion Seed Branch, Calgary

Owing to the unusual conditions under which harvesting and threshing was carried on last fall, considerable seed in the country has undoubtedly been injured. The results of tests made by the Dominion Government Seed Branch, Calgary, on samples sent in by farmers, show germination below what would be expected from appearance of the seed. Farmers should thoroughly satisfy themselves that their seed this spring is of high germination quality.

Many samples of seed have been received at the Dominion Seed Branch during the past few months, from farmers located in every part of the Province. In many cases farmers have asked for a full report on their seed, which includes purity analysis, germination and seed grade, all of which information is required in order to sell seed in compliance with the Canadian Seeds Act. However, many farmers submit samples for ger-

mination test only, and we believe that most of these are simply testing their seed to ascertain whether or not the vitality is strong enough to warrant using it for seeding purposes. A considerable percentage of wheat was exposed last fall to the elements until it became sprouted and any such wheat should not be used as seed.

May Be Suitable for Seed

Much difficulty has been experienced in the germination of wheat grading "tough" or "damp", although after these samples have been dried in a warm room for several days, much higher results are obtained, which in our opinion indicates that with proper treatment the grain would be suitable for seeding purposes. It is believed that in the process of cleaning grain over a common fanning mill a couple of times, which is necessary in order to secure a reasonably plump, uniform sample of seed, free from weed seeds, considerable drying will take place. Such seed should assure the farmer better yields. Farmers are advised, however, that it is imperative to either test their seed samples at home, or have them tested at the Dominion Seed Branch, to be sure the vitality is strong enough for seeding purposes.

The Flower Pot Test

Probably the best way for farmers to test seed in the home, is by the use of the flower pot test. The grain having been dried in a warm room for five or six days, two lots of one hundred seeds are counted out. Two flower pots are half filled with soil, one hundred seeds spread in each and then covered with about an inch more soil. These should be made thoroughly moist at the start and kept fairly moist throughout the test. Place the pots in a warm place in the house, preferably at a window with a southern exposure and see that a reasonably even temperature is maintained. Seeds germinated are counted after twelve days, care being taken to count as germinated only those seeds showing both root and shoot. This count indicates the vitality of your seed.

There is a possibility also of grain that grades "tough" or "damp" at the present time, becoming heated when the warm days of spring arrive, and farmers should watch such grain carefully to see that heating does not commence, as heated grain loses vitality very rapidly.

Wheat Pool Meetings

Meetings in the South Calgary Wheat Pool district to be addressed by Ben S. Plumer, Director for the district, and in the Camrose district to be addressed by Lew Hutchinson, district Director, are announced below.

MR. PLUMER'S ITINERARY

Mr. Plumer's itinerary is as follows: Cluny, Feb. 25th, 2 p.m.; Meadow Brook Hall, Feb. 25th, 8 p.m.; Hussar, Feb. 27th, 2 p.m.; Chancellor, Feb. 27th, 8 p.m.

Nightingale, March 1st, 2 p.m.; Keoma, March 1st, 8 p.m.; Irricana, March 2nd, 2 p.m.; Kersey School, March 2nd, 8 p.m.; Beiseker, March 3rd, 2 p.m.

Acme, March 3rd, 8 p.m.; Swallow, March 4th, 2 p.m.; Mosher School, March 4th, 8 p.m.

Redlands, March 5th, 2 p.m.; Rosebud, March 5th, 8 p.m.; Langdon, March 6th, 2 p.m.; Dalemead, March 6th, 8 p.m.

What Actually Happened and What Some Newspapers Said Had Happened

Lethbridge Herald Reports Entirely Imaginary "Motion of Censure" in Alberta Legislature—What Mr. Cook Said, and What He Was Reported to Have Said

Revealing the wide divergence between what happened in the Legislature, and what some newspapers said had happened or been said on two occasions since the opening of the session of the Legislature, two quotations from press reports are given below.

In the first, the Lethbridge Herald reported an entirely imaginary "motion of censure" on the Government, no such motion having been brought before the Assembly. In the second instance, the reports in three Alberta papers stated that E. G. Cook, the member for Pincher Creek, had expressed himself as opposed to the bringing in of any new settlers, whereas in fact he had specifically stated that he was not opposed to immigration under proper conditions.

The quotations are given below:

WHAT THE LETHBRIDGE HERALD SAID HAD HAPPENED

"Mr. Dechene's motion of censure, when put to an aye and nay vote, was overwhelmingly beaten in a roar of 'nays' from the Farmer side of the House."—Lethbridge Herald, Feb. 12th.

MR. COOK ON IMMIGRATION, AS REPORTED

"The proper system of colonizing the land is under Provincial supervision, and I DO NOT BELIEVE IN BRINGING IN ANY OUTSIDERS. As soon as we try to settle up land by bringing in new settlers other problems creep in, and with conditions here such that not more than 50 per cent. of the new arrivals make good on the land, we should devise some policy in Alberta to develop our natural resources, which, along with a properly organized system of Provincial supervision and keeping our own educated and acclimatized people here would be the best immigration policy we could have in Alberta," declared Mr. Cook.—Report in Edmonton Bulletin, Calgary Albertan and Medicine Hat News.

MR. HUTCHINSON'S ITINERARY

Mr. Hutchinson's itinerary is as follows:

Hayter, March 2nd, 2 p.m.; Sulphur Springs, March 2nd, 8 p.m.; Provost, March 3rd, 2 p.m.; Eye Hill, March 3rd, 8 p.m.; Cadogan, March 4th, 2 p.m.

Metiskow, March 4th, 8 p.m.; Czar, March 5th, 2 p.m.; Hughenden, March 5th, 8 p.m.; Amisk, March 6th, 2 p.m.; Rosyth, March 6th, 8 p.m.; Hardisty, March 8th, 2 p.m.; Strong School House, March 8th, 8 p.m.; Bells Hill, March 9th, 2 p.m.; Merna, March 9th, 8 p.m.

Sedgewick, March 10th, 2:30 p.m.; Prairie Park, March 10th, 8 p.m.; Killam, March 11th, 2 p.m.; Strome, March 11th, 8 p.m.; Daysland, March 12th, 2 p.m.; Bawlf, March 12th, 8 p.m.; Ohaton, March 13th, 2 p.m.

HOLD TWO AUCTION SALES

Landonville U. F. W. A. Local held two large auction sales of sewing during the year. They also made seven woollen comforters, conducted a three days' course in millinery, assisted the U. F. A. Local with several dances and concerts, and sent a delegate to the Junior Conference.

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED

There was no "motion of censure." The only vote was on a motion by the Premier to take into consideration the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne on the following day. Only Mr. Dechene and one other Liberal voted against this motion.

WHAT MR. COOK ACTUALLY SAID

I DO NOT WISH TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS SPEAKING AGAINST IMMIGRATION, I BELIEVE IN A PROPERLY ORGANIZED SYSTEM OF COLONIZING OUR LAND, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SOME PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE IN REPLACING OUR OWN NATIVE BORN EDUCATED SONS BY IMMIGRANTS FROM A FOREIGN LAND, and we may just as well face the facts, if we are going to educate our sons, and keep them on the farms we must make conditions more attractive on the farms, and in my humble opinion the best immigration policy we can have in this Province is that of developing our natural resources; in that of developing our lands, we must have the essentials I mentioned a moment ago, such as rural credits, market roads and properly organized marketing systems, along with a proper system of placing land seekers, but when you undertake to bring in new settlers to settle up our land there are other matters that must be considered in conjunction, because even though all the settlers you bring in may have had previous farm experience it is safe to say that not more than 50 per cent. of them will stick and make a success on the farm, conditions are so different and there are so many who cannot adjust themselves to changed conditions, but rather try to adjust conditions to suit their whims and fancies, and try to proceed along practices and customs of their own country, and when they fail to succeed they blame the country, and in order to take care of these, and avoid the problem of unemployment we must have a greater variety of employment.

KEEP REST ROOM OPEN

Although small in numbers, the Castor U. F. W. A. Local have succeeded in keeping their rest room open throughout the year, with some help from the business men of the town.

RATHWELL ACTIVITIES

Rathwell Local are planning a "U.F.A. Night" of a social nature. One or two members will give short speeches showing the advantages to be gained by building up and maintaining a strong U. F. A. organization, with the object of increasing the membership in the Local.

Sending in dues for 26 members, Geo. Butcher, secretary of New Brighden Local, writes: "You will see we are doing considerably better than last year, as we had only six members."

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

A BILLION DOLLARS OF LIFE ASSURANCE IN FORCE

1925

ASSURANCES IN FORCE (net) ---\$1,021,097,000
An Increase of \$149,460,000

New Assurances Paid For----- 193,477,000
An Increase of \$56,011,000

Total Income ----- 69,147,000
An Increase of \$6,901,000

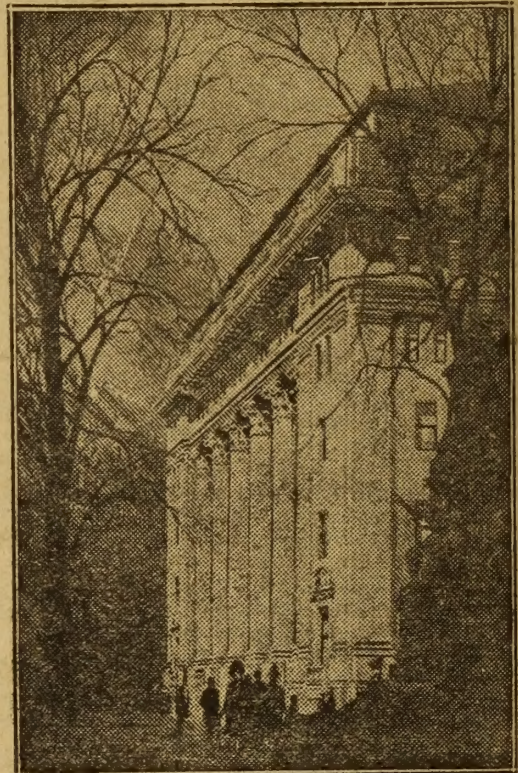
**Payments to Policyholders and
Beneficiaries** ----- 35,441,000

Total Payments Since Organization 219,239,000

**Reserve for Unforeseen
Contingencies** ----- 10,000,000

**Surplus Over All Liabilities and
Contingency Reserve** ----- 28,640,000
An Increase of \$6,532,000

ASSETS at December 31, 1925----- 303,056,000
An Increase of \$28,925,000



Policies in Force, Excluding Group Policies----- 411,492

Employees of Firms Protected by Group Policies----- 42,755

Dividends to Policyholders increased for sixth successive year

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA